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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-181
Tuesday
19 September 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-181 CONTENTS *19 September 1995*

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Hijacked Iranian Airliner Lands in Israel 1
- Plane Originally on Domestic Route *[IRNA]* 1
- Iranian 'Experts': Hijacking Possible *[IRNA]* 1
- Plane Reportedly in Jordan Airspace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
- Plane Said Flying Toward Saudi Arabia *[IRNA]* 1
- Hijacked Plane Overflies Tel Aviv *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
- Tehran Radio: Plane Lands in Israel 1
- Rabin Allows Landing Due to Low Fuel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
- Two Armed Hijackers Turn Themselves In *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
- Third 'Terrorist' Possibility Investigated *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2

Inter-Arab Affairs

PLO Does Not Want Expulsions on League Agenda *[AFP]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Views Taba Talks, 21 Sep Target Date *[Jericho VOP]* 3
'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Talks, Hamas *[AL-DUSTUR 18 Sep]* 3
Text of Hamas-PA Draft Agreement Published *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 20 Sep]* 7
Hamas Says Authority Involved in Member's Killing *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 8
'Special' Force Formed To Kill Hamas, Jihad Activists *[AL-MAJD 18 Sep]* 8
Islamic Jihad Denies Rumors of Kidnap Attempt *[AL-NAHAR 6 Sep]* 9
Official Affirms Displaced Born After 1967 Palestinians *[Jericho VOP]* 9
UN Agency To Send Aid to Deportees *[MENA]* 9
Anniversary Said To Mark Passing of Oslo Accord *[AL-TALI'AH 14 Sep]* 9

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations Continue in Taba 10
- Agreement Reportedly Reached on Prisoners *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
- PA, Israelis Differ on Status of Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
- Peres Comments Before Resuming Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
- 'Arafat, Peres Resume Talks *[MENA]* 11
- Quray': Palestinians Cannot Cede Hebron *[Jericho VOP]* 11
- Peres Affirms Hebron Obstacle in Talks *[MENA]* 11
- 'Arafat, Peres End Round of Talks *[MENA]* 12
- Jerusalem Radio Reports 'Significant Progress' 12
- Kanafani Notes 'Breakthrough' on Hebron *[Jericho VOP]* 13

Accord With PA Said To Provide for Executive Branch *[Jerusalem TV]* 14
Israel, Egypt, Jordan, PA Agree on Regional Projects *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

President Announces Candidacy for Reelection *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Second Council Member Announces Candidacy *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Transitional Council Member To Run for President *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Commission 'Hopes To Ensure' Smooth Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Al-Nahdah Movement Leader on Elections, Boycott *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Sep]* 16

Egypt

Israeli Ambassador Interviewed on POW Affair *[AL-MUSAWWAR 15 Sep]* 17
Musa, France's de Charette Comment After Talks *[MENA]* 20
    De Charette Leaves for Amman *[MENA]* 21
Musa on Possible Meeting With Taha, Taba Talks *[MENA]* 21

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Said To Want 'Deal' With U.S. *[AL-MAJD]* 21
Al-Qadhdhafi on NATO Attack on Islam; Bosnia *[JANA]* 21
Al-Qadhdhafi on 'Real Islam,' Jihad *[JANA]* 22

Morocco

Economic Cooperation With China Reviewed *[MAP]* 22

Sudan

Government Troop Casualties Reported in South *[MENA]* 23
SNDG Urges Solidarity To Topple Regime *[MENA]* 23
Egyptian Ministry's Rest House Returned *[MENA]* 23
Human Rights Group Reports on Arrests, Torture *[MENA]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Ministerial Council Holds Meeting in Riyadh 24
    Bahraini Foreign Minister Speaks *[Riyadh Radio]* 24
    Further on Bahraini Minister's Address *[KUNA]* 24
    Meeting Concludes *[Riyadh TV]* 25

Saudi Arabia

CDLR Bulletin Assails Regime's 'Stupid Actions' *[London CDLR Monitor 18 Aug]* 25

United Arab Emirates

Maid Gets Death Sentence for Killing Employer *[AFP]* 28

Yemen

Speaker Discusses Extradition, Saudi Ties *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Sep]* 28
Relations With Saudi Arabia 'Back to Normal' *[SPA]* 30

IRAQ

Saddam Addresses Cabinet on Administration *[Baghdad TV]* 31
'Udayy Declines To Discuss Political Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Sep]* 33
INA: 'Humiliating' U.S. Terms for Husayn Kamil 34
Journalist Appointed Husayn Kamil Spokesman *[AL-MAJD 18 Sep]* 34
  Journalist Denies Report *[AL-ASWAQ 19 Sep]* 35
Changes Said Apparent in Post-Defection Baghdad *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Sep]* 35
English Daily Terms Quest for Democracy 'Genuine' *[INA]* 37
Talabani Sees Regime Overthrown, Elections Held *[Voice of the People]* 37
PKK Reportedly Sets Fires to UN Vehicles *[Ankara TV]* 38
Hitch in Kurdish Talks; Negotiators' React *[KUNA]* 38
'Doubt' Cast on Kurdish Peace Accord Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Sep]* 39
Radio Commentary on Need To Continue Dialogue *[Voice of the People]* 39
Paper: PUK Will Remain Flexible in Talks *[Voice of the People]* 40

ISRAEL

Right-Wing Parties on 'Emerging' Taba Agreement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
IRNA: Rabin Criticizes Russia on Nuclear Plant 41
Medical Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia *[THE JERUSALEM POST 19 Sep]* 41
PRC Deputy Chief of Staff Pays 5-Day Visit *[DAVAR 17 Sep]* 41
Rabin Receives Mandela Invitation To Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Poll Gauges Popularity of Top Political Figures *[Jerusalem TV]* 42

JORDAN

Minister's 'Positive Remarks' on Iraq Criticized *[AL-HADATH 20 Sep]* 43
Al-Kabariti on Iraq, Japanese Prime Minister's Visit *[AL-RA'Y 18 Sep]* 43
Japanese Prime Minister Murayama Arrives in Amman 44
  Welcomed by Bin-Shakir at Airport *[Amman Radio]* 44
  Discusses Peace Developments With King *[Amman Radio]* 44
  Pledges Economic Support *[Amman TV]* 44
  Concludes Visit *[Amman TV]* 44
French Foreign Minister de Charette Arrives 45
  Received by al-Kabariti *[Amman TV]* 45
  Makes Statement on Arrival *[Amman Radio]* 45
  Received by King Husayn *[Amman Radio]* 45
King Confers With Iranian Ambassador on Ties *[Amman Radio]* 45
Plane Lands in Ireland After Bomb Hoax *[AL-DUSTUR 16 Sep]* 45
Israelis Blamed for Not Nurturing Peace in Hebron *[JORDAN TIMES 16 Sep]* 45
Prime Minister Gives Address on Public Liberties *[Amman TV]* 46
  Further on Session on Public Liberties *[JORDAN TIMES 18 Sep]* 47

LEBANON

Minister Dallul Rejects Settlement of Palestinians *[MENA]* 49
Hizballah's Qasim Interviewed on Recent Operations *[Tehran International]* 49
Foreign Minister Buwayz on Current Issues *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Sep]* 50

SYRIA

Japan's Murayama Pledges Loan to al-Asad *[Tokyo KYODO]* 53
Radio: Israel 'Fooling Itself,' Playing for Time *[Damascus Radio]* 53
Communist Party: Israeli Actions Jeopardize Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 53

SOUTH ASIA

India

Officials Contact Abductors; Hostages Safe *[Delhi TV]* 55
  Further on Contact With Kidnappers *[AFP]* 55
  'Encounter' With Kidnappers Denied *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Rao Departs for Visit to Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan *[Delhi Radio]* 55
  Commentary Views Upcoming Rao Visit *[Delhi International]* 56
Article Views Trade With China as 'Happy Augury' *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 15 Sep]* 56
Commentary Reviews Visit by Danish Prime Minister *[Delhi International]* 58
Article Views Witholding of 'Mid-Term Appraisal' *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 14 Sep]* 58
  Further Commentary on Witholding Appraisal *[THE HINDU 15 Sep]* 60

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Continues West Azerbaijan Tour *[IRNA]* 61
  Gives Interview About Tour *[Tehran TV]* 62
President Praises Shiite-Sunni Unity *[IRNA]* 62
President Stresses Value of Telecommunications *[Tehran Radio]* 62
President Congratulates Kurds in Mahabad City *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Daily Calls For Free Elections in Algeria *[IRNA]* 63
Paper Discusses Situation in Balkans *[IRNA]* 63
Larijani, German Ambassador Hold Talks *[IRNA]* 64
Foreign Minister Returns From Meeting in Armenia *[IRNA]* 64
Trilateral Meeting of Foreign Ministers Discussed *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Bucharest Stresses Expansion of Ties With Tehran *[IRNA]* 65
Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Kazakh Counterpart *[IRNA]* 65
First Vice President, Bangladeshi Envoy Meet *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Nateq-Nuri Denies Division With Rowhaniyat *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 6 Sep]* 66
President Inaugurates Work on Power Plant *[IRNA]* 67

Nepal

Communists Decide Not To Back Vote of Confidence *[Kathmandu Radio]* 67
Government Wins Confidence Motion in Parliament *[AFP]* 67

Pakistan

Editorial Sees 'New American Game' in Region *[THE MUSLIM 18 Sep]* 68
Foreign Secretary Comments on Aid to Afghanistan *[Islamabad TV]* 68
Relations With Kabul, Reopening Embassy Discussed *[JANG 15 Sep]* 69
OIC Chief Gives Support to Islamabad on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Airline Says it 'Never Negotiated' With Israel *[THE NEWS 18 Sep]* 70
Party Faction Offers To Merge With Rival *[THE NATION 16 Sep]* 70
Parties Agree To Resist 'Fascist' Policies *[THE NATION 17 Sep]* 71

Sri Lanka

President Discusses Possibility of Conscription *[Colombo International]* 72
Tamil Tigers Kill 16 Soldiers, Kidnap 10 Farmers *[AFP]* 72
Troops Continue Operation Against 'Terrorists' *[Colombo International]* 72
LTTE Role in Plane Crash Seen as Unlikely *[Colombo International]* 73
Sources Report Failed Talks To Free Ferry Crew *[Colombo International]* 73
Trade Unions Welcome Proposals To End Conflicts *[Colombo International]* 73

Hijacked Iranian Airliner Lands in Israel

Plane Originally on Domestic Route

LD1909074395 Tehran IRNA in English 0728 GMT 19 Sep 95

["Iranian Passenger Plane Disappears En Route From Tehran to Kish Island" — IRNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA — An Iranian 707 passenger plane deviated from its air corridor en route from Tehran to Kish Island Tuesday [19 September] morning.

The pilot's connection was cut with the control tower of Kish airport, the report said.

A civil aviation expert did not rule out the possibility of the plane leaving the Iranian air space.

Civil aviation officials are investigating the case and the reason behind sudden disconnection between the plane and the control tower.

No technical failures have been reported in the radar system of the plane.

Iranian 'Experts': Hijacking Possible

LD1909082995 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kish Island, Sept. 19, IRNA — Experts do not rule out the possibility of an Iranian passenger plane being hijacked.

An Iranian 707 boeing passenger plane disappeared Tuesday [19 September] morning en route from Tehran to Kish Island.

An informed source at the Kish airport told IRNA that evidences including the way the pilot contacted with the control tower and its sudden disconnection indicate that the technical systems of the plane are intact.

Therefore, there exists the possibility of the plane being hijacked.

With regards to the fuel amount of the plane, it can fly to Saudi Arabia or Iraq.

Plane Reportedly in Jordan Airspace

TA1909091695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 19 Sep 95

[Report by monitor Mikha'el Gurdus — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iranian airplane is currently flying over Jordan. Let us hear the pilot. [Passage indistinct]

We just heard the pilot of the hijacked plane giving his location in south Jordan, but he does not say what his destination is. It is now clear that the Iranian plane has been hijacked. As recalled, the Iranians initially announced that the plane had gone missing, and later they said that it had apparently been hijacked. To repeat, now the plane is flying over Jordanian airspace.

This is all I have to report at the moment.

Plane Said Flying Toward Saudi Arabia

LD1909093695 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA — According to latest reports, an Iranian airliner flying from Tehran to Kish Island which disappeared from radar screen this morning has been hijacked.

The identity of the hijacker or hijackers have not been determined yet.

According to a reliable source, the plane is reportedly flying towards Saudi Arabia.

There are 160 passengers and crew on board the hijacked airliner.

Meanwhile, a committee was set up on Tuesday morning at the civil aviation organisation to investigate the issue.

An informed source at the organization told IRNA that further information about the airplane would be made known to the public later.

Hijacked Plane Overflies Tel Aviv

JN1909100495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Official quarters in Amman have stated that the Iranian Boeing plane which disappeared this morning is overflying Tel Aviv.

It has also been learned that the Jordanian authorities have closed Jordanian airspace in the event the plane asks to land at Amman airport.

It is feared the plane has been hijacked, particularly since it has not sustained any technical failure according to the Kish airport control tower, and has sufficent fuel to enable it to fly to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, or any other country.

Tehran Radio: Plane Lands in Israel

LD1909115995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Boeing 707 passenger plane belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran airways has been hijacked on a flight from Tehran to Kish Island.

Based on the latest report, all the passengers and crew members are in good physical condition and a special committee has been formed in the Iranian National Aviation Organization to follow and try to solve this development.

The aircraft, which was carrying 177 passengers, has been taken to and landed at the 'Uvda airforce base near the Gulf of Aqaba.

Rabin Allows Landing Due to Low Fuel

TA1909100395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0957 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is another detail we have learned about the hijacking of the Iranian airplane: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee a few minutes ago that the plane had run out of fuel and that is why he allowed it to land in Israel, at the 'Uvda airfield in the south.

Two Armed Hijackers Turn Themselves In

TA1909104195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1028 GMT 19 Sep 95

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq's comments on the hijacking of the Iranian plane: The chief of staff was in the area to attend an Artillery Corps event. He was at the exact site of the landing, and he told us: As soon as I get an update, I will let you know. In the meantime, the chief of staff said, this is what I know:

[Begin Shahaq recording] What we know is that an Iranian plane on a domestic flight in Iran landed near Elat. As far as I know, two hijackers have so far alighted from the plane; I do not know whether they are the two hijackers or just two of the hijackers. They were armed, and they turned in their weapons. At this point, I cannot tell you anything else. [end recording]

The chief of staff was asked whether Israel was prepared, and he said: We are very well prepared.

Israel's airspace was reopened after the hijacked Iranian plane landed at the 'Uvda airfield.

Third 'Terrorist' Possibility Investigated

TA1909113995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The affair of the hijacked Iranian airplane: About half an hour ago, Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq told Qol Yisra'el that two armed hijackers had alighted from the plane and turned themselves in to the security authorities. The possibility that a third terrorist may be on board is being checked.

News agencies report that there are wounded persons among the passengers on board.

Israeli airspace was reopened after being closed for about an hour. The hijacked plane, a Boeing 707, landed over an hour ago at the 'Uvda airfield north of Elat.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he allowed the plane to land in Israel because it was running out of fuel. The pilot said on the radio that there were 177 passengers and crew members on board. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the pilot warned he would have to carry out a crash landing if he was not allowed to land because his tanks were running out of fuel.

[Reporting live on Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 19 September, Gurdus adds: "The plane was on its way from Tehran to the island of Kish. From the very beginning, the pilot announced that he was flying to Israel. In the first radio communication I monitored, the pilot did not just say Israel but specifically cited Ben-Gurion Airport. He was in constant contact with the Jordanian air traffic controller, who initially did not even acknowledge him on the radio. The pilot said he was transmitting blind and gave details of his location, and then contact was established with the Jordanians. As said, from that point on, the pilot kept saying: I am flying to Israel. He did not want to fly anywhere else."

[Asked about reports that Jordan did not allow the pilot to land on its territory, Gurdus replies: "The pilot did not ask for such permission at all. He said: I have no choice; I am flying only to Israel. He did not at all request permission to land in Jordan."]

The airplane was hijacked over Iran during a domestic flight and then flew over Jordanian airspace. Sources in Amman said the Jordanian authorities did not give it permission to land, and it then asked for permission to land at Ben-Gurion Airport. The prime minister did not agree to let the plane land there for fear that it might be booby-trapped and ordered that it be allowed to land at 'Uvda.

Our correspondent Yehudit Silberstein reports that the vicinity of the 'Uvda airfield has been declared a closed military zone, and all the roads leading to it have been blocked. The 'Arava highway to Elat is open.

Inter-Arab Affairs

PLO Does Not Want Expulsions on League Agenda

NC1709135195 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 17 (AFP) — The PLO said on Sunday [17 September] it does not want the issue of Libyan expulsions of Palestinians put before the Arab League in its session this week.

"We prefer to have this problem solved through direct diplomatic contacts rather than in noisy meetings," the PLO's representative to the league, Muhammad Subayh, told AFP.

Subayh said the issue of Palestinian refugees in general was permanently on the league agenda and would be discussed at the 104th session of the league council of foreign ministers, to be held in Cairo on Wednesday.

"I don't rule out that bi- or trilateral meetings might take place between league officials, Palestinians and Libyans on the sidelines of the session," Subayh said.

League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has invited the head of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) to open the session after a Palestinian request, 'Abd-al- Majid's spokesman Tala't Hamid said.

Ilter Tuerkman would "present a full report on the status of UNRWA and of the Palestinian refugees," Hamid said. UNRWA headquarters in Vienna have not confirmed that Tuerkman would attend.

At least 150 Palestinians are stranded on the Libyan-Egyptian border after Tripoli ejected them. An UNRWA official in Cairo said most of them had been living in "appalling conditions" for over two weeks. UNRWA was waiting for permission from Egyptians to cross into no man's land to provide them food, water and medical aid, the official said.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi began deporting Palestinians in early September in a bid to show up the "failure" of the self rule deal between Israel and the PLO.

The flow of Palestinians out of Libya has tapered off in the past two days after intense Arab pressure on Tripoli. But Libya has not said it will accept back the deportees.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Views Taba Talks, 21 Sep Target Date

JN1809162195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for Taba this afternoon for a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. 'Arafat and Peres will resume their talks to overcome obstacles and reach an agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles agreement.

President 'Arafat said the signing of the agreement depends on the Israeli side. Prior to his departure for Taba, he added: We are exerting strenuous efforts to reach an agreement.

He pointed out that there are still some obstacles that have not been settled yet. He noted that the Palestinian side has submitted its proposals, including those proposals made by a Hebron delegation led by Hebron's mayor.

President 'Arafat chaired a meeting of the National Authority's Council of Ministers at the Presidential Office in Gaza at noon today. The Council of Minister discussed the results of 'Arafat's talks with Peres in Taba over the past three days. 'Arafat briefed the council on his meeting with Peres.

Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi said the Council of Ministers discussed the question of Hebron and the Israeli proposals regarding it. He added that the cabinet turned down these proposals, given that they do not meet the minimum requirements of redeployment.

Labor Minister Samir Ghawshah stressed the importance of redeployment outside Hebron. He noted that Israel linked redeployment outside Hebron with the building of a 34-kilometer long bypass road around it. Ghawshah said he is not optimistic that an agreement will be concluded on 21 September as was expected. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Talks, Hamas

JN1809110295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Sep 95 p 29

[Report on interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid in Gaza; date not given — published in coordination with AL-AHRAM Press Agency]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-Wahid] During the past few weeks, Israeli officials continued to make statements threatening to close Orient House and other Palestinian offices in Jerusalem. How does this affect the peace process?

['Arafat] First of all, leveling such threats is in itself a blatant violation of the peace agreement. Any encroachment on the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem or on the Christian or Muslim religious centers there is a blatant violation that jeopardizes the entire peace process.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Do you think Israel is serious about closing Orient House?

['Arafat] I do not think the Israeli Government will make such a mistake.

['Abd-al-Wahid] What will happen then?

['Arafat] These statements are an attempt to provoke tension and create a new crisis during the negotiating process. This always happens during our negotiations with them. Israel will not do such a thing. It will only continue to harass people, but it cannot close any offices except those without work permits.

['Abd-al-Wahid] What makes you think so?

['Arafat] Israel definitely knows the strong reaction it will have to face if it were to do such a thing. The Palestinian reaction will not be easy; it will be political, popular, moral , and religious.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Will an Arab reaction be coordinated in this regard?

['Arafat] As you know, I called for an Arab League meeting following the expropriation of land in Jerusalem. For the first time since the Gulf war there was a unanimous decision. I think the same can be done again if Israel closes Orient House.

['Abd-al-Wahid] How are the negotiations with Israel going, and how do you evaluate them?

['Arafat] Nothing has changed in the negotiations with Israel. The Palestinian elections were supposed to take place in July, but 14 months have passed and nothing happened. In spite of this, we will keep calling for an accurate and faithful implementation of all agreements. The elections are the first point of disagreement. The second point, which is the most complicated of all, is Hebron. Israel continues to insist on not withdrawing from Hebron, that is, it refuses to implement the clause pertaining to withdrawal from the inhabited areas. In other words, it is obstructing the elections. It is unreasonable to exclude one of our major cities in the West Bank from withdrawal before the elections are held.

['Abd-al-Wahid] What are the latest contacts with Israel?

['Arafat] Contacts do not stop. They may not be open to the news media, but they are always taking place away from them. Progress, however, is very slow.

['Abd-al-Wahid] How long will this Israeli intransigence continue, particularly in implementing what has been agreed upon?

['Arafat] I have to make myself clear. Our patience has its limits. Let all know that our Palestinian people have many options. None should think that we have no options. True, we have signed agreements, but we did not sign them unilaterally. Both signatories should abide by the agreement they signed. Nevertheless, we expect more difficulties and more intransigence, but we will wait and see. Thanks to our experience in these negotiations, we now have over 90 people who constitute our negotiating delegation. Most of them have become experts working competently each in his own field. This is a bright spot in Palestinian action.

['Abd-al-Wahid] The Hebron issue stands out as a main point of disagreement in the negotiations, how can this disagreement be overcome?

['Arafat] First of all, I want to say that the disagreement over Hebron cannot be overcome without a decisive solution. I hope that a suitable solution for this issue will be reached because if we do not pass this stage, the peace process will be undermined from its bases. My assessment also applies to most cities in the West Bank. Because Hebron is a basic issue, we immediately contacted the cosponsors of the Madrid conference, Egypt, Norway, the European Union states, and the rest of the Arab and African countries to stand with us in this serious situation. We did not reach any settlement or agreement over Hebron thus far. I would like to remind that Hebron is one of the six main cities listed in the Oslo agreement from which Israel should withdraw during the first stage of redeployment before the elections. Meanwhile, the Jerusalem issue was postponed until the beginning of the sixth year. Moreover, we should not forget that when I entered the West Bank in 1965, I took Hebron as my headquarters.

['Abd-al-Wahid] How do you assess the situation, especially in Gaza, after one year of the Palestinian Authority [PA]?

['Arafat] First, I would like to point out that our current situation comes after many years of struggle during which the Jews destroyed our cities, especially Gaza. We are at a transitional stage that has its own circumstances. However, I would like to say that our infrastructure was completely destroyed by the Jews before they left. The floor we are sitting on right now is new. It was built after the departure of the occupation from Gaza. Do you know that our offices were built from cardboard and not even from wood? After I entered Gaza, I stayed on the ground floor for 19 months until this office was furnished.

Marwan Kanafani, 'Arafat's adviser, who attended the interview, interrupted by saying: Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] considers his office the most luxurious office in the world. Marwan asked me to see for myself. Indeed, the office deserves to be described as anything but luxurious.

Abu-'Ammar continued: For instance, before they left, they dismantled the railroad and said that they would use it for military purposes. This is in addition to their destruction of the water and sewage networks. As an engineer, I know very well that any facility that remains without maintenance deteriorates very quickly. This was the case with our facilities. Our facilities were without any maintenance whatsoever when they were handed to us.

If you look out from my office in the morning, you will see the fishing boats are still where they were. Fishermen have to move them with their bare hands. The Israelis refused to build a fishing port. Throughout the past 12 months, the United Nations tried to get Israel to approve building this port, but it refused. When I came here, I decided to build it, but Israel banned us from bringing in the rocks and necessary materials to build a retaining wall which is necessary for the construction of the fishing port.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Does Israel have the right to do so?

'Arafat said with emotion: Of course not. Do they have any right to anything? The logic of force prevails even under peace. We are tolerating this because we are facing what our Algerian brothers have faced. I am talking about the O.A.S. [the Secret Army Organization]. After the first and second Evian agreements, this organization — which represents a secret grouping in the French Army — surfaced and opposed the two agreements.

We are now facing an overt organization in the Israeli Army which opposes the peace agreement. This is what the authority is now facing from outside.

['Abd-al-Wahid] What about the problems it faces on the domestic level?

['Arafat] Things there are not any better. Unfortunately, we are experienceing a critical stage in the absence of Arab generosity. All the Gulf countries suffered from the Gulf war. Had it not been for Palestinian businessmen with small capitals, we would be facing a disaster. Businessmen with large capitals started to invest here only since last month. Small capitals were the ones that really saved us.

If you want more information on our domestic state of affairs, let me tell you that there is half a hospital bed available for every 1,000 Palestinians in Gaza. Our schools operate three shifts a day. There are at least 65 pupils in each class. Do you know that we have an acute water crisis? I regret to say that had it not been for the bottles of mineral water we receive from Egypt or Israel, we would have nothing to drink?

Do you know that we have problems with electricity, telephone lines, and roads? The occupation left us with absolutely nothing working. In my meetings with European foreign ministers, I told them: You, Europeans, have occupied many countries through colonization, but when you moved out you left everything as it was in these countries contrary to the Israeli occupation which even tore off doors, windows, and removed light bulbs. You should not forget that restoring life to all sectors is not an easy job in any country in the world, particularly in countries which experience circumstances such as ours. We can say that we have laid down the first brick on the first Palestinian land to be liberated.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Where are the donations announced by the donor states, and where are their projects on Palestinian land?

['Arafat] I know that there is much talk about this. Let me be more explicit, some say that there has been some misappropriation of these funds.

Abu-'Ammar paused for a moment, then calmly said: All the donations the Europeans or others speak about, in case we receive them, are subjected to close supervision and control not by us only but also by these countries in addition to the control of many international bodies. Before all this, I would like to tell you that these donor countries offer us many promises but carry out only a few of them.

['Abd-al-Wahid] How do you view the Egyptian role which closely follows the establishment of your new state and the negotiations to further enhance its stability?

['Arafat] Have you forgotten that the second agreement was signed in Cairo, and that our most important negotiations take place in Cairo? President Mubarak exerts huge efforts to help us in the negotiations, and you cannot imagine how happy we were by the brotherly gesture represented in the presence of the Egyptian National Troupe which participated in the first Palestinian cultural event to be held on our liberated territory.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Given your political experience and far from your present official responsibilities, do you believe the PA is qualified to govern a country?

['Arafat] Those who think about this should know that we are facing special circumstances. We are still in the stage of preparations for administrative stability on our land. We also should not forget that the long period of jihad and tribulation abroad has produced thousands of cadres and experts. I believe that the performance of our PA, despite its fresh experience, has been positive and has a promising future.

['Abd-al-Wahid] So, this authority can preside over a state?

['Arafat] We are now in a transitional stage. When the state is proclaimed, we might be able to provide the appropriate answer to this question.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Brother Abu-'Ammar: Let me be frank. Prior to my arrival in Gaza, I read many analytical articles, mostly in the foreign press, critical of corruption in the Palestinian National Authority. Moreover, I met with many people here who told me that these articles did not misrepresent the true state of affairs. What do you have to say about this?

['Arafat] Just like you, I read these analytical articles and heard these views by the people. Nonetheless, I would like to tell you, the writers of these articles, and the people you met that whoever is without sin can stone me. In the delicate phase we are experiencing right now, I have seen efforts to cut back on adverse phenomena. This is somewhat positive, because it shows that our people are pinning great hopes on the authority. However, we must be cautious in making judgments. For, whoever makes a mistake is immediately taken to task. The accomplishments made thus far constitute a victory over momentous challenges that we face every day. This does not mean that the picture is utterly spotless. I am currently immersed in the paper work that you see in front of me. I also follow all details on the ground. My relationship with my people is not governed by protocol or appointments, because we have continued to work at a revolutionary pace. There are no barriers or boundaries between us and our people, for our people are simply opposed to this.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Although the authority's members have not been in office for long, the people are speaking of the inevitability of change soon.

['Arafat] I can see and appreciate the motives behind the views expressed in this regard and the statements made to this effect. The people are experiencing endless suffering. For the past 27 years in which the occupation authorities destroyed all their resources, there has been no respite for the people. Nonetheless, this occupation has failed to destroy their souls, which are given to criticism. Despite all this, I would like to declare that many ministers work hard late into the night.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Is a cabinet reshuffle in the offing?

['Arafat] Right now, no, for we are now in the transitional period. After the elections, there will be a reshuffle.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Why after the elections?

['Arafat] Because I expect the elections to be held within the next few months.

['Abd-al-Wahid] What if many months drag on without elections?

['Arafat] Then, we would have something to say in this regard.

['Abd-al-Wahid] What is the current status of the PLO? Do you consider the authority as part of the PLO?

['Arafat] We are building our state through the authority for all Palestinians regardless of their political or social affiliations. The PLO will remain the authority's clear and final senior echelon of policymaking.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Where does the opposition stand after the PA's presence inside the territories?

['Arafat] The situation did not change much. We are a democratic movement and we respect the opinion of others. I might disagree with you, but I am willing to fight for the freedom of your opinion. There are many interpretations of the Oslo agreement and we respect these interpretations. According to our constitution, the majority should respect the opinion of the minority and the minority should commit itself to the opinion of the majority.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Is the PA capable of dealing with this opposition in this spirit in the long run?

['Arafat] I assure you that a great part of the opposition is just ink on paper and does not enjoy any popular support.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Some of the opposition believe that the principles you upheld during the era of the revolution abroad differ from those you are currently upholding while inside the territories?

['Arafat] I would like to remind you that in 1974, after we were awarded medals at the Egyptian War College in appreciation for our participation in the October 1973 war, we held a meeting for all Palestinian leaders in Cairo. After a dialogue, which lasted for more than 600 hours, we came out with 10 points. Before I presented these points to the Palestine National Council [PNC], I presented them to all the Arab leaders, and neither these leaders nor any of the Palestinians opposed them. One main point stipulates: The establishment of a Palestinian National Authority on any Palestinian soil that is liberated or from which Israel withdraws.

Hence, Abu-'Ammar adds, what was signed now or in Oslo comes very late. We only implemented what the PNC decided in 1974 and under the name of "Palestinian National Authority."

['Abd-al-Wahid] Where does the Hamas Movement stand?

['Arafat] Hamas now wants to disrupt the peace process. When we were abroad and before the peace process began, Hamas refused to carry out suicide operations as it does now. Despite all this, public and secret contacts between the PA and Hamas did not stop and, at the same time, did not achieve any progress. I went more than once to Egypt to ask the Muslim brothers there for mediation. I also sought the mediation of many Islamic leaderships in Turkey, Europe, and Yemen. I did all this in an attempt to emphasize to Hamas that the land is the most precious thing. However, all mediations did not succeed thus far.

['Abd-al-Wahid] Brother Abu-'Ammar...Abu-Zahwah, what do you wish for your dear daughter?

['Arafat] I wish that she will live in her Palestinian homeland, in her Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Text of Hamas-PA Draft Agreement Published

NC1909083095 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 14-20 Sep 95 p 4

["Full text of the proposed agreement between the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Palestinian National Authority"; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate. Having placed our trust in God; believing in the right of our Palestinian people to a life of freedom and dignity; asserting the national unity of our Palestinian people, and seeking to realise their just objectives in establishing their independent State of Palestine with its capital in Jerusalem; seeking to consolidate the foundations of democracy by Shura [consultation] in our homeland on the basis of political pluralism, freedom of opinion, creed and human rights, under the rule of law and in observance of justice; in view of our commitment to the vital interests of our people; in recognition of the national and historical responsibility which we all have a share in bearing; emanating from our profound faith in the principles of joint cooperation; aware of the grave dangers which threaten our people at the present stage; wishing to consolidate positive relations between all forces and agents, leaders of Fatah and members of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] have concluded, under the sponsorship of Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and His Eminence Sheikh Ahmad Yasin, the present agreement, the result of good offices provided during the previous period and acknowledged with profound appreciation:

(1) To assert the unity and solidarity of the Palestinian people, their right to self determination and to establish an independent state with its capital in Jerusalem (Al-Quds Al-Sharif);

(2) To shun internal strife, adopt democratic means of dialogue in seeking realistic solutions which safeguard the interests of the people, realising their objectives, and become united behind major issues of concern to the homeland, such as the issue of Jerusalem, the Palestinian detainees, the settlements, etc...;

(3) The respect to the commitments of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation ensuing from the agreements signed with the Israeli government, which require the cessation of all military operations in, or launched from, the areas under the Palestinian National Authority, or publicising views through peaceful means and democratic ways, without resort to defamation or offense;

(4) To emphasise the need to build the institutions of the Palestinian civil society, to separate the mandates of the respective authorities and to consolidate the rule of law;

(5) To accelerate the enactment of legislation establishing political parties in order to lay the foundations of political pluralism and to strengthen the principle of equality between all citizens;

(6) To recognise the right of brothers in Hamas to participate in the institutions of the Palestinian National Authority at all levels, on the basis of efficiency, drawing on the fact that the Palestinian National Authority is the authority of the Palestinian people regardless of political and ideological leanings, or organisational affiliations;

(7) To assert the right to assemble and commemorate national or Islamic events after obtaining due permission from the concerned authorities within the Palestinian National Authority;

(8) To assert the right of citizens to own personal weapons provided the ownership or acquisition of such weapons be duly licensed by the concerned authorities within the Palestinian National Authority; however, the

possession or carrying of explosives shall be banned on the grounds of the threat to the safety of citizens;

(9) To emphasise that the function of the units of local government is to provide services, and as such as independent administrative units, composed of representatives directly elected, and such units should be run in accordance with local government law;

(10) To emphasise the principle of a free economy;

(11) The Palestinian National Authority is responsible for the protection of individuals who performed their duties during the years of struggle, from any faction or group, drawing on the principle that the Palestinian National Authority is responsible for securing the safety of all citizens;

(12) To create a suitable and tranquil atmosphere, it was decided to take measures to enhance safety, confidence, cooperation and love between the citizens of the one nation, thus embodying national unity and consolidating it. This requires the cessation of the publication of provocative statements, inciting rhetoric which undermines national unity, and averting from defamatory and slanderous speeches, statements or posters. All organs of the mass media should be channelled to consolidate national unity. On the other hand, measures taken by the security forces for preventive purposes must be stopped, in order to build up confidence between all.

(13) To respect the sanctity of mosques and places of worship, and avert actions which violate the sanctity of such places, or their use for purposes other those for which they were intended;

(14) To establish an appropriate consultative framework to give advice and consultations to the Palestinian National Authority to realise the interests of the people and serve the national good;

(15) To establish a permanent coordinating committee consisting of the two parties "Fatah and Hamas" to consider all issues which surface or are brought before it by any party, with the view to finding appropriate solutions which serve the public interest of Palestinians.

(16) This agreement shall take effect as of the date of its signing. It shall be declared by the means agreed upon and duly deposited with the minister of justice.

Hamas Says Authority Involved in Member's Killing

JN1509191595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement yesterday, the Islamic Resistance Movement mourned hero martyr Ibrahim al-Nassar who was killed in an explosion in Gaza city three days ago.

The statement said his martyrdom in al-Tuffah neighborhood was similar to the assassinations of the martyrs Kamal Kuhayl and Hatim Hassan last April.

The same as the case of Shaykh Radwan's neighborhood massacre, 'Arafat's authority implemented the same trick to cover up the ugly crime alleging that martyr al-Nassar was preparing an explosive charge when it exploded, and that they found explosive materials and devices. The masses did not believe this allegation; they knew the truth about the perpetrated crime.

Several eyewitnesses denied that the authority's organs found any explosives at the site. Spreading such lies is strong evidence that the authority is involved in the plot, backed by the enemy forces, to liquidate the mujahidin.

In its statement, Hamas said martyr Ibrahim was wanted by the enemy forces as well as the security and intelligence organs of 'Arafat's authority. He was not known to carry explosives or deal with them. Likewise, Hamas Movement does not use apartments in residential neighborhoods to manufacture or store explosive charges out of concern for the safety of our people.

The movement asked the limited self-rule authority not to disavow its direct responsibility for what our people are facing, such as threats to their lives because it gives free hand to the enemy's gangs and agents.

'Special' Force Formed To Kill Hamas, Jihad Activists

JN1809160695 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 18 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that the Palestinian General Intelligence Department has recently formed a special unit charged with liquidating the secret and military arms of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. This organ, which is called "The Special Action Office," is commanded by Major Mazin al-Jartali, also known as Abu-'Ala'.

This organ, formed at the personal behest of Yasir 'Arafat, comprises approximately 800 officers and elements known for their cruelty and violence. The most prominent of those are Mahmud Abu-Dan, Tariq Bsaysu , Abu-'Awn Abu-Sil, Abu-Rasim al-Bayyari, Kamal Musa, Mu'in Abu-Jabal, Muhammad al-Suwaysi, Nasir Abu-'Alim, Ashraf al-Bayyari, Munir Abu-Tahun, 'Umar al-Yaziji, Major Muhyi al-Haj, 'Azmi al-Husari, and Amjad Hammudah.

This unit began its repressive tasks as soon as it was created. It penetrated the secret wings of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, collected weapons and information, and arrested a number of Hamas activists and fugitives, including Basim 'Isa, 'Ali al-Sabah, Hafiz Idris, 'Imad 'Abbas, and Hasan Salamah, in addition to Nabil al-Shurbaji from the Islamic Jihad.

It is noteworthy that Maj. Mazin al-Jartali, chief of this organ and deputy to Tariq Abu-Rajab, chief of the General Intelligence Department, supervised the PLO security unit in East Europe 10 years ago and used Belgrade as his headquarters and place of residence for a long time.

Islamic Jihad Denies Rumors of Kidnap Attempt

NC1609085095 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
6 Sep 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine yesterday denied kidnapping dissident Muhammad Abu-Samrah. In a statement issued by its information section in Beirut, Islamic Jihad said: "We have repeatedly stated that for years Abu-Samrah has been spying on the Palestinian Islamic and national movement for Yasir 'Arafat's security services and lately for the Israeli Mosad. In the past Abu-Samrah made several false statements on alleged attempts to attack and kidnap him. All these claims, which proved to be false, are in line with the suspicious role this dangerous spy is playing."

The statement added: "Rumors of an Islamic Jihad attempt to kidnap Abu-Samrah are miserable and groundless lies. Our information indicates that Abu-Samrah secretly left for Algeria a short time ago in preparation for his transfer to the Gaza Strip at the request of 'Arafat and the Zionists."

Official Affirms Displaced Born After 1967 Palestinians

JN1709200095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1900 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Walid Zaqqut, director of the Negotiations Affairs Department, has denied a report published by the Jerusalem newspaper AL-NAHAR today citing the Jordanian newspaper SHIHAN to the effect that the displaced who were born after 1967 are not Palestinians in accordance with the Oslo agreement.

Zaqqut stressed that the file of the displaced will be settled when a definition on who are the displaced is reached.

UN Agency To Send Aid to Deportees

NC1709171195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1435 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Sallum , 17 Sep (MENA)—The regional office of the UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] responsible for the Middle East, located in Cairo, has decided to send food and humanitarian aid to the Palestinians deported from Libya who are stranded on the border between Libya and Egypt. (Yanus Mimtris), official in charge of foreign relations and information in the UNHCR, said the vehicles carrying this aid will travel to the border area to deliver it to the deportees as soon as the Egyptian Foreign Ministry gives permission. He visited the deportees on Thursday [12 September] and described their health and psychological condition as extremely bad.

Anniversary Said To Mark Passing of Oslo Accord

TA1509183595 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic
14 Sep 95 p 3

[Commentary by Bashir al-Barghuthi: "In Memoriam of the Oslo Accord"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The talk these days is about the second anniversary of the signing of the Oslo accord, which is merely the anniversary of an event that passed away only days after it took place. At the time, it was said that this signing marked the opening of the road to peace and the inauguration of a new era!

Is this what really happened, and do the facts before us support that optimism and justify the expectations aroused by some people after the accord was signed?

The accord contained two possibilities. One was that it would become a real conduit for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and the achievement of a just solution to the Palestinian refugee problem. The second was that the Israeli Government would use this accord as a conduit to lull the Palestinian masses and delude Arab public opinion into believing that the stumbling block to normalization and to economic and security cooperation between the countries of the Middle East had been removed while it continued its occupation policies and practices with the aim of eliminating any chance of the first possibility succeeding.

To this end, the Israeli Government adopted the policy of procrastination and foot-dragging in the negotiations and of separating the issues under discussion and deferring some of them to the final stage. All this was done in a bid to complete the talks on the other tracks and then negotiate with the Palestinian side alone. Whereas the redeployment was supposed to take place in April 1994, the negotiations on this issue are still going on even as these lines are being written. Whereas the redeployment was supposed to be carried out simultaneously throughout the West Bank, with the exception of Jerusalem and the settlements, the Palestinian negotiating side agreed to Israel's deviating from the Oslo accord and to scheduling the redeployment to go on until 1997.

Even this agreement on the part of the Palestinians was met by an Israeli position that excludes Hebron from the redeployment. During all this Israeli procrastination and deviation from the Oslo accord, settlements were expanded, lands confiscated, and bypass roads built in the name of Israeli security.

If one were to compare the accord itself with the results that followed the Oslo talks, one would find that the results are not the legitimate child of the accord.

The results are a series of retreats from the Oslo accord. The most outstanding result was changing the point of reference of the talks from Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as stipulated in the Oslo accord, to Israel's internal security requirements as viewed by Israeli officials.

On the basis of this new point of reference, procrastination, the construction of bypass roads, land confiscations, the erection of road blocks, the isolation of Jerusalem from the West Bank, and the transformation of the latter into Israeli and Palestinian pockets that obliterate the West Bank's territorial unity were justified.

If the justification for accepting Gaza-Jericho First was to underscore the territorial unity of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which was stipulated in the Oslo accord as well, the agreement to separate Jericho from al-'Awja was a prelude to the establishment of new pockets separated by roads over which the Palestinian side has no control.

Without elaborating on the number of manifestations of the fragmentation of Palestinian lands under various Israeli "security" pretexts, what is clear is that the Israeli Government is pounding the nails into a final settlement in accordance with the Israeli Labor Party platform and on the basis of the Israeli prime minister's expansionist statements, which reject withdrawal, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and the repatriation of the displaced as called for by the Oslo accord.

These retreats are not tactical. The new agreements are being made with the Civil Administration, whose dissolution was stipulated in the Oslo accord, and on the basis of maintaining the occupation military rule, whose withdrawal was also stipulated in this accord.

Thus, it is impossible to recognize any part of the Oslo accord in the new agreements. This is something that makes the ceremonial manifestations a mere memorial.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations Continue in Taba

Agreement Reportedly Reached on Prisoners

TA1809115995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority sources have said that agreement was reached at the Taba talks on which security prisoners will be released first, upon the signing of the agreement. They told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Israel agreed to release all women, minors, elderly people, all those who have been in jail for more than 10 years, and all those who have already served two-thirds of their prison term.

PA, Israelis Differ on Status of Talks

TA1809175395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet in Taba in some 30 minutes. Sources in the Israeli delegation believe that the chances of the negotiations' being concluded in the coming hours have improved. The Palestinian Authority [PA] delegates, however, doubt that an agreement will be reached this week. Samir Ghawshah said that there will be no agreement, and Nabil Sha'th stressed that it is impossible to sign the agreement without resolving the Hebron problem.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in the meeting this evening, Minister Peres is expected to present new ideas regarding the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron, but will insist that overall responsibility for security remain in Israeli hands.

Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray], head of the PA delegation, said that the settlers can stay in Hebron and be subject to the Palestinian security apparatus, but that a series of security arrangements can be instituted in the city as long as the principle of the IDF redeployment is adhered to.

Israeli sources told our correspondent that even if the Hebron problem is solved, the problem of the release of Palestinian prisoners is yet to be resolved and might make wrapping up the negotiations difficult. It has become apparent that contrary to Palestinian claims, Israel did not accept their demand that women, older men, some 100 senior PLO members, and prisoners who have served two thirds of their term be released, and evidently the issue is still open for negotiation.

Peres Comments Before Resuming Talks

TA1809193695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is currently conferring with Yasir 'Arafat in Taba. The meeting will probably last all night. Upon arriving for the meeting, Minister Peres told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that Hebron has been and remains the main problem. So far, Peres said, we have presented concepts; the time has come to translate them into the language of maps and agreements. The foreign minister refused to answer a question on whether Israel will insist that overall security in Hebron remain in IDF [Israel Defense Forces] hands.

Referring to the issue of the Palestinian prisoners, Peres said that this is not a primary problem and that he expects it to be resolved by the weekend. He added that he cannot commit himself to a signing date. At the same time, he expressed satisfaction with the optimistic stand that Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray], head of the Palestinian delegation, has presented.

'Arafat, Peres Resume Talks

NC1809190695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 18 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres resumed their negotiations this evening in Taba on expanding self-rule and the rest of the West Bank territories.

At dawn today, the Palestinian and the Israeli negotiators concluded a round of negotiations which went on for 14 hours without making any progress over the Hebron issue.

The Palestinian delegation submitted a working paper on the redeployment of the Israeli army in the town. But the Israeli side rejected it and saw it necessary to refer to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The Israeli foreign minister ruled out the possibility of signing an agreement on starting implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles on Thursday, 21 September.

At the same time, Palestinian and Israeli negotiators are holding contacts with the Egyptian leadership and the U.S. Administration to bridge the gap between the two sides.

Quray': Palestinians Cannot Cede Hebron

JN1809202395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Taba, meetings between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres began a short while ago. Peres is bringing new ideas following his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Our correspondent in Taba, Hanadi al-Imam, has the details:

[Begin al-Imam recording] No progress has been achieved so far regarding the Hebron issue. Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', economy minister and chief Palestinian negotiator, stressed that the Palestinian side cannot cede Hebron. He said there is no Palestinian who can bear the burden of ceding or dividing the city. He added: We can negotiate with the Israelis on temporary security measures to protect the Hebron settlers, although there is no settlement inside the city. Abu-'Ala' added that the Hebron situation must satisfy the Palestinian side only. Israel must redeploy its forces outside it, just as with other cities of the West Bank, he stressed. He indicated that the Palestinian position is specific and just. He added that if this is not achieved, the whole process will (?stalled).

For his part, Shim'on Peres said that he came with new ideas but not with new positions. He said that the Israeli side is trying to narrow the existing gap, especially concerning the main problem, Hebron.

On the possibility of meeting the date set for signing of the agreement in Washington on 21 September, Abu-'Ala' said: If the Hebron issue is not resolved today, then it is not possible to meet that date.

Peres said that it is still possible to sign the agreement on the set date. He said: I am ready to sign anytime. On the prisoner issue, Peres said that this is not a major issue, and a agreement can be reached on it.

The issue of maps and roads between the cities and villages of the West is still posing a problem. The maps are no less important than the Hebron issue.

Meanwhile, we are still awaiting what will happen this evening in the meetings between President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. [end recording]

Peres Affirms Hebron Obstacle in Talks

NC1809212195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 18 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has reaffirmed that the issue of Hebron continues to constitute an obstacle in the way of the negotiations on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank.

Peres said in statements to journalists before negotiations with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat began that bringing the viewpoints of the Palestinians and Israelis closer to each other requires constant effort. However, he added that at this current stage, we cannot talk about a date for signing the agreement.

The U.S. Administration set Thursday, 21 September, as a target date for signing this agreement.

Sources close to the negotiations told MENA that Israeli Energy Minister Gonen Segev will arrive in Taba later tonight to discuss the matter of transferring electricity authority to the Palestinian side, which continues to be a matter of conflict between the two sides of the negotiations.

These sources said that there is the intention on both sides to end the negotiations before the target date, confirming the presence of Egyptian-U.S. efforts to bring the Palestinian-Israeli viewpoints closer together.

The same sources also mentioned that the two delegations to the negotiations exchanged ideas and suggestions on how to resolve the Hebron issue.

The sources expect the currently convening session to conclude at an early hour on Tuesday morning. They also expect the Palestinian and Israeli delegations not to leave Taba before they finish resolving all the points of conflict.

'Arafat, Peres End Round of Talks

NC1909051995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0321 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 19 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ended a marathon 10-hour round of talks at 0515 today without reaching a specific agreement. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, official spokesman for President 'Arafat, told MENA that the two parties will resume talks in Taba at 1000 today, noting that there is a joint formula regarding the city of Hebron under way and it will be a point of negotiation in the upcoming round of talks.

Abu-Rudaynah said that at dawn today Egyptian and U.S. leaders were briefed on the Israeli ideas proposed during the negotiations. He noted that some Israeli ideas proposed during these negotiations, if implemented, will pave the way for attaining some achievements. He said that committees and working groups are continuing the negotiations in an attempt to narrow the gap on Hebron. He said that these ideas need to be discussed and that the Palestinian stance calls for redeployment of the Israeli forces in the city. He added that Israel agreed to this and offered arrangements regarding the Israeli families living in Hebron. There are approximately 400 Israelis living in Hebron. He pointed out that Israel's handling of Hebron as a Palestinian city, like other cities, as it put forward the new ideas in line with the Declaration of Principles constitutes an important step. He said that during these talks Israel declared that it will comply with the Declaration of Principles and will implement it.

Regarding the transfer of the electricity authority to the Palestinian Authority, Abu-Rudaynah said that the committee meetings are continuing and the discussions have not been completed. He noted that considerable progress has been achieved regarding the issue of water. He noted that the committee on the transfer of water has nearly completed its discussions. He said that the progress made is represented by two points: Israeli recognition of the Palestinian right to water and increasing the Palestinian share of water from 130 million cubic meters to 210 million cubic meters. It should be recalled that this quantity represents one third of the water in the West Bank. He said that regarding the issue of the detainees, the negotiations are continuing and that there is a Palestinian paper based on the release of all detainees according to a time-table, foremost among these are 27 Palestinian women.

Peres left Taba at dawn today and will return there at 1000 today.

Jerusalem Radio Reports 'Significant Progress'

TA1909055195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have made significant progress at the talks in Taba on extending Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank, although differences still remain. The teams are currently drawing up a document outlining points of agreement and disagreement. Foreign Minister Peres and Yasir 'Arafat are due to meet again at 10 o'clock [0800 GMT] this morning.

On the issue of Hebron, it was agreed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will redeploy from the Hebron area, although there will be special security arrangements for the settlers. The Palestinian Police will be responsible for security in the Hebron area in coordination with Israel. The main sticking point remains over the timing of the IDF redeployment in Hebron, the extent of the redeployment, and how many stages will be involved. Israel wants to delay the withdrawal from Hebron, maybe to the final stage.

Yasir 'Arafat's media adviser, Marwan Kanafani, summed up the agreement on Hebron:

[Begin Kanafani recording] We both agree that there should be a redeployment in Hebron. We both agree that there should be special temporary arrangements for the settlers in Hebron. We both agree that the Palestinian Police should be in charge of Hebron, even in the area where the settlers are, in coordination with the Israeli security force. [end recording]

Palestinian negotiator Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] also spoke last night about the importance of Hebron:

[Begin Quray' recording] Hebron, as I said, is a Palestinian city and should be dealt like that. If there will be no solution to Hebron, there will be no process, and there is no solution other than to give redeployment, complete redeployment, and Palestinian Police in Hebron. [end recording]

In addition to the remaining differences on Hebron, the two sides have failed to agree on the extent of withdrawal from other Palestinian population centers. Differences also remain over control of electricity supply in the West Bank, although progress is reported on control of holy sites.

Foreign Minister Peres said the issue of Palestinian prisoners is not a stumbling block, and he hopes it can be sorted out by the end of the week.

No announcement has been made on the signing ceremony in Washington, which was scheduled to take place on Thursday.

The IDF has finalized a program for West Bank redeployment which will begin in Janin in October and will be completed in Judaea in December. The plan envisages Palestinian elections taking place on the 20th of January. Qol Yisra'el's military reporter says that according to the plan, after Janin, redeployment will take place in Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, and Nabulus. Later Ramallah, parts of the 'Etzyon area, Bethlehem, and Abu-Dis will see a troop redeployment. The final area will be parts of Judaea, including Halhul.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 19 September notes that the IDF plan "does not envisage a withdrawal from Hebron."

[The same newscast goes on to report: "Police Minister Moshe Shahal stated this morning that the sides are reaching a final agreement on Hebron. He pointed out that there has been no change in the substance and that Israel will continue to guard the settlers in the city and the Cave of the Patriarchs. The Palestinian Police will not replace our forces anywhere in Hebron, Shahal said. He said the Palestinians are demanding that all prisoners be released upon the signing of the permanent agreement, but Israel objects to this."]

Kanafani Notes 'Breakthrough' on Hebron

JN1909073695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0510 GMT 19 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Taba, by Fathi al-Barqawi in the studio, from the "New Day" feature — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Brother Marwan, good morning.

[Kanafani] Good morning to you.

[Al-Barqawi] Can we sum up, or at least have some details about last night's results?

[Kanafani] The Palestinian delegation discussed many topics within the framework of the implementation of the second stage, that is to start implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles. Of course, the most important issue is Hebron. Following President Yasir 'Arafat's return from Gaza yesterday evening, the Israeli delegation submitted a paper which we view as far better than the two previous papers which where completely rejected by the Palestinian delegation. On this basis, a breakthrough took place yesterday evening. Of course, the talks continued on all topics as I mentioned, including issues on which we were unable to reach agreement.

Generally speaking, let us focus on the Hebron issue which, as I told you, is the most important issue, given that it was the main stumbling block in the way of a solution. We do not want to be overoptimistic and give listeners the impression that the issue has been settled. We also do not want to minimize the importance of the fierce negotiations, If I may use this expression, which are under way between the two delegations in Taba.

[Al-Barqawi] What I want to know is whether the agreement would be explicit, and without any ambiguities?

[Kanafani] We are in the process of formulating a paper spelling out our stand on the points which explain in great detail the question of the redeployment in Hebron. As I already said, there is progress in some areas while in others the gap remains wide between us and the Israelis. It seems that the Israeli side has given up some ideas it knew the Palestinian delegation would never accept, no matter what it does. It goes without saying that general ideas need to be studied in detail. Other difficult issues may crop up and could obstruct the attainment of a solution on this issue. However, the situation now is better than what it was yesterday.

[Al-Barqawi] This reminds us of Shim'on Peres' statements that those who know him know that he does not give concessions.

[Kanafani] Such statements are made for domestic consumption. With our eyes set on the interest of the homeland, we are not frightened or anything else by such talk.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Marwan, what about the issue of Jewish settlements in Hebron?

[Kanafani] There are no Jewish settlements in Hebron. There are several settlers who came a long time ago and took up positions in a specific area in the city of Hebron. The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] views this as an explicit violation of all the agreements between us and of all the international agreements. We are thinking of temporary arrangements—I would like to stress the word temporary—in order to proceed with the implementation of the second stage of the agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] And the issue of security in the city?

[Kanafani] The security issue, of course, is left to the Palestinian side. With the exception of the temporary arrangements, the Palestinians will be in charge of security.

[Al-Barqawi] Then the two delegations are expected to go Washington on Thursday?

[Kanafani] While I am speaking to you now, we can predict nothing. The talks could collapse when dealing with the details, the formulation, the commas and the full stops. On the other hand, there could be success. If there is success, this needs time. If this is possible before Thursday, then we welcome it. But, if we need more time, we will not allow a deadline for signing to become a sword brandished over our heads. We must first discuss the agreement in detail and with complete frankness, and finalize it. Then we can go to where they want us to sign this agreement.

[Al-Barqawi] It seems that Israel needs this agreement. The Arab Maghreb Union countries have sent signs to this effect?

[Kanafani] We do not need to explain this. All the parties, particularly the two basic parties, need an agreement to reinfuse life into the Oslo agreement and to enable the PNA to spread its authority throughout the West Bank and in the Palestinian cities. This is a fact we cannot ignore. The agreement and the negotiations do not benefit only one party but benefit the two parties and all the parties which live in this region and the world.

[Al-Barqawi] Brother Marwan, thank you.

Accord With PA Said To Provide for Executive Branch

TA1509194995 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Sep 95

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has acquiesced to the establishment of an executive branch in the territories — a government of sorts. Only a legislative council had been mentioned until now. A draft agreement which has reached the hands of our political correspondent indicates that 'Arafat will be able to appoint his men to this body and to delegate operational duties to them. Alongside this agreement, some controversial issues — mainly Hebron — remain to be discussed by Peres and 'Arafat tomorrow night at a meeting that will apparently be held in Taba. Our correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen has the details:

[Begin Rosen recording] Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres raised a toast today on the occasion of the bar mitzvah of Knesset Member Dalya Itzik's son. Rabin and Peres would love the next toast to be raised with Yasir 'Arafat and Bill Clinton on the occasion of the signing ceremony of the interim agreement in the territories. In addition to Hebron and the release of prisoners, many problems still remain. The main question is whether 'Arafat is at long last willing to finalize the lengthy negotiations, sign the agreement, and start implementing it.

Along this long road, Israel has given in on several positions that seemed of paramount importance to it during the initial stages of the process. A draft agreement which has reached our hands indicates that regarding the operation of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the territories, Israel has agreed — contrary to the stipulations of the Oslo agreement — to the establishment of a Palestinian executive branch alongside the legislative branch.

This is what Article 8 of the agreement has to say about this issue: The legislative council will have an executive authority, according to the Palestinians, or an executive committee, according to the Israelis. This executive authority or committee will receive its powers from the legislative council and will operate on its behalf.

The parallel situation in Israel is that the government receives its authority from the Knesset and acts on its behalf.

The president or chairman — namely, 'Arafat — will appoint his representatives to this executive arm, and they will carry out governmental functions.

Yitzhaq Rabin convened the negotiations team and security officials today for a prolonged consultation in anticipation of Peres' meeting with 'Arafat in Taba tomorrow night. Israeli sources say serious problems remain in the negotiations. They say everything now depends on 'Arafat. If he decides that he wants to get to the signing ceremony in Washington on 21 September, it will be possible to wrap up the negotiations in two or three days. [end recording]

In a first reaction to the above remarks, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir confirms that the agreement refers to an executive committee. He emphasized to our correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen, however, that the powers vested in this committee will be limited. He claims they are far from those vested in a government:

[Begin Savir recording] The Palestinians will vote for the council alone. This council will establish committees, as it is entitled to do. One of these committees will be an executive [last word in English] committee, like the one that exists today prior to the elections. There is a huge gap between a state structure and an autonomy structure. We see this as a continuation of the security issue and as something very far from a solution of the sovereignty issue or the question of statehood. [end recording]

Israel, Egypt, Jordan, PA Agree on Regional Projects

TA1809181995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority [PA] have agreed on eight regional projects. They include setting up a common electric grid; developing coastal resorts in the al-'Aqabah-Elat-Taba area; building a freeway from Cairo to al-'Arish, Gaza, and Ashdod and from there to Europe; and building a joint airport for Elat and al-'Aqabah. The projects will be presented at the Amman economic conference.

Algeria

President Announces Candidacy for Reelection

LD1909102095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of state, Liamine Zeroual, announced this morning that he is putting his name forward as a candidate in the coming presidential elections. The first stage takes place 16 November. The announcement was made in a statement issed from the Djenane el-Mithak residence in Algiers.

Second Council Member Announces Candidacy

LD1809204795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second candidate to announce today he will run [in the presidential elections] is Amar Bouacha, a member of the external relations commission of the National Transitional Council [CNT]. He is also the president of the national movement of the Algerian youth.

At a news conference at the CNT headquarters, Mr. Bouacha explained that his candidacy is in the general interest and contributes to help Algeria out of the impasse.

Before he entered the CNT, Bouacha was a scientist.

Transitional Council Member To Run for President

LD1809183095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1700 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another candidate has joined the presidential race. He is Sadek (Temmache), member of the Transitional National Council. He is also member of the National Human Rights Monitoring Group and chairman of the Association for the Promotion and Integration of Youth.

Sadek (Temmache), who is 42 years old and married with children, is a mathematician by training and has a postgraduate degree in business management.

He held a news conference at the El Djazair Hotel in Algiers this afternoon. As far as he is concerned, the current priorities security issues and social problems. He said to Maya Sabeur:

[Begin (Temmache) recording, in Arabic] If the people do not give their trust to the candidate to reach that position, the main concerns of my program will focus on two things [sentence as heard]. First, the restoration of stability and tranquillity for the people. The second thing is to overcome the social problems the people are enduring. Naturally, there is unemployment and as well as economic problems. We must find ways to save jobs, create jobs, and seek to preserve the dignity of Algerians. [end recording]

Commission 'Hopes To Ensure' Smooth Elections

LD1809140195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Independent Commission for Monitoring the Presidential Elections informs all citizens and presidential candidates that it was officially installed on Saturday, 9 September 1995, by the head of state.

The commission is in charge of ensuring the good organization and running of the presidential elections. The commission hopes to ensure the participation of everyone in ensuring the smooth running of credible and transparent presidential elections. Therefore, any citizens or candidates wishing to report any irregularity in the organization and running of the presidential elections can use the following telephone or fax numbers. The telephone number is 02 68 63 52; the fax number is 02 68 63 50.

Al-Nahdah Movement Leader on Elections, Boycott

MM1809133995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "Leader of the Algerian al-Nahdah Movement Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our Position on the Next President Depends on his Policy on Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — While the parties to the Algerian "national covenant" have called for a boycott of the presidential elections scheduled for 16 November and urged their followers and supporters not to sign in favor of any candidate, the leader of one of the parties that signed the document of this "covenant" has said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that this boycott does not necessarily mean boycotting the president to be elected.

Shaykh Djaballah Djaballah, leader of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement, said that "our position on the president will be defined after the elections, if they are held. That will be on the basis of the new factors, including the policy he is going to adopt vis-a-vis tackling the crisis."

Djaballah stressed the position of the "national covenant" group, which believes that "the political, security, informational, and administrative conditions that allow the organization of free and democratic elections that enjoy the people's confidence and put Algeria on the right path vis-a-vis the restoration of security and stability are not available, which is why they have decided not to participate in the elections."

He added that the group "has drawn up a program designed to convince the people of the need to adhere to a political, peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution, and to consider the elections the regime is seeking to organize as another formula aimed at perpetuating the existing regime and prolonging the crisis in order to continue the policy of eradication, poverty, and expulsion."

Djaballah stressed that this program does not include violence, which has witnessed a marked escalation since a date for the elections was announced. He said that "the confrontation policy the country has been experiencing since the electoral course was halted, the political and informational sphere was closed, the state of emergency was enforced, and the Islamic Salvation Front was disbanded has suddenly begun to become more complex and dangerous. And the 'national covenant' group advocated speeding up a comprehensive, just, and peaceful solution and proposed a practical, objective, and balanced plan based on a number of values and principles, including renouncing violence as a means of reaching or staying in power."

He went on: "The group is still committed to its position and believes that the authorities' insistence on holding the elections in the absence of the influential opposition and in current conditions is an action perpetuating and further complicating the crisis and pushing the country toward further political deadlocks, bloodshed, and deterioration. The 'national covenant' group is saddened by all these matters, warns against them, and urges that they be avoided, namely by postponing the elections and engaging in a real dialogue with the opposition."

Djaballah dwelled on the position of the "national covenant" group on the Algerian Government's invitation to international organizations, including the Arab League, the United Nations, and the OAU, to send observers to monitor the course of the elections. He considered the participation of these organizations, some of which have agreed to send observers, "collusion with the regime and an attempt to implicate them in the country's crisis."

Djaballah pointed out that the program agreed by the "national covenant" group includes holding a meeting abroad. He said that "there is an intention to hold the meeting in Paris. It will not be different from the previous meetings held by the group in a number of world capitals [as published], such as London, Madrid, New York, and Larnaca. The meetings are aimed at clarifying the group's view of the Algerian crisis and ways of resolving it."

Egypt

Israeli Ambassador Interviewed on POW Affair

NC1809152195 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 15 Sep 95 pp 28-29

[Interview with Israeli Ambassador to Egypt David Sultan by Buthaynah al-Biyali in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Biyali] The Egyptian public wants to know what has been done following the confession by a former Israeli army officer that several Israeli military personnel were involved in killing many Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars. He identified those officers and explained how they killed groups of unarmed POW's. Has the Israeli Government formed an inquiry commission or not?

[Sultan] After this information was published, the Israeli Government instructed its legal adviser to investigate the matter. The legal adviser announced that the killing of Egyptian POW's by Israeli troops was a war crime. The government, however, cannot begin an investigation because it is not possible to put the people involved on trial because the crime is 20 years old and, according to Israeli law, subject to the statute of limitations. We denounce these actions, which do not represent the general picture of what happened during those wars. These were extraordinary actions carried out by a few individuals. They did not represent the government's policy or that of the Ministry of Defense or the high army command.

[Al-Biyali] Still, those who carried out those actions are senior figures who are in positions of responsibility. They do represent the government, do they not?

[Sultan] Please look at the dates. You are referring to Sharon as a leading government figure. First of all, he is now outside the government. He's in the opposition. During the 1956 war he was a mere field commander, not in the high command. Also in 1967, he was only an officer. I can well understand the Egyptian citizens' feelings and declare that I strongly sympathize with them. No one approves of such actions. We also were taken by surprise by officer Biro's announcements. Egypt and Israel have decided to put the war dossier behind us and look to the future. Wars are ugly by their very nature. Some people are now asking for an investigation. You cannot have a partial investigation—it must be complete. A complete investigation would reopen old wounds. I wonder what we can gain from reopening old wounds and hearing that this side did so and so and the other side did this and that. The outcome will be a poisoning of relations between the two countries.

[Al-Biyali] Egypt has expressed willingness to carry out an immediate investigation if there are indications that its troops committed such crimes.

[Sultan] An investigation by both sides would be useful to explain certain situations that the people have a right to know. Anything more than this will cause bitterness, particularly among Egyptians.

[Al-Biyali] Now that the contents of that file have been disclosed, horrible as it is, do you think that closing the file will have a better impact on the Egyptian people?

[Sultan] I think that probing into this issue will involve negative consequences for both sides. Rather than advancing ahead, we will be retreating to delving into the depths of the past to know what happened.

[Al-Biyali] Is it feared that investigations might involve prominent politicians?

[Sultan] This is not the issue.

[Al-Biyali] What then is the harm involved in running an investigation and questioning the people who committed these crimes against unarmed Egyptian prisoners?

[Sultan] Israeli law does not permit a trial after the passage of 20 years. The crime is subject to the statute of limitations.

[Al-Biyali] The law you are talking about is an Israeli law. The argument here concerns the 3d Geneva Convention on the treatment of war prisoners. There is a clear stipulation concerning assaults on POW's—they are not subject to a statute of limitations. Why does Israel insist on applying its own law when the matter falls within the context of international law?

[Sultan] This international law takes force if it is adopted by Israeli law. Israel has not adopted it so far.

There is a need for a new domestic legislation to enforce that law on the domestic level, but this has not happened yet.

After the issue was raised, the government's legal adviser began preparing the necessary legislations to apply this law inside Israel. Naturally, it will not be applied retroactively.

[Al-Biyali] Are there other states that do not recognize the international laws included in the Geneva Convention and its third paragraph concerning war crimes? Are there states that recognize it and others who do not, or is Israel unique in this regard?

[Sultan] I have no idea. I am talking about the situation in Israel.

[Al-Biyali] The Egyptian people believe that there is an attempt to conceal the facts and deliberately cover up the matter. Some conclude from this episode that Israel does not care about the lives of the unarmed Egyptians it killed, although it raises havoc if one of its soldiers gets killed. I would like to ask you why Nazi war crimes were not subject to the statute of limitations?

[Sultan] Israel is an open society, it is impossible to conceal anything here. The newspapers publish everything. This is proven by the fact that news of this issue came out of Israel itself. What I mean is that by nature our society does not wipe out or cover up anything. If you are referring to the Nazi trials, this was a crime of annihilation against an entire people. According to Israeli and international law, this crime is not subject to the statute of limitations.

[Al-Biyali] But both involve one and the same thing: annihilating a people or committing genocide against unarmed prisoners who are part of those people. Both are crimes and are not subject to the statute of limitations according to the 3d Geneva Convention.

[Sultan] I disagree with you. The first situation was an attempt to annihilate an entire people according to a government plan that used all government instruments. Here we are talking about crimes committed by individuals and not by a state or government.

[Al-Biyali] I have nothing that confirms these were individual attempts—they might have been committed upon instructions and orders from the military command.

[Sultan] I can confirm this fact to you because there are no instructions from the military leadership or from the defense minister to kill prisoners.

[Al-Biyali] Do you not believe that Israel is committed, at least morally and ethically, toward a big Arab country like Egypt, who was the first one to extend its hand in peace to Israel, to at least offer some kind of explanation or show some sort of sympathy toward the Egyptian people?

[Sultan] The prime minister has already expressed his sympathy by saying that Israel condemns these acts because they are criminal acts that go against our values. With regard to the requests submitted by the Egyptian Government, we are still considering the response to them.

[Al-Biyali] What has Egypt asked for exactly?

[Sultan] Egypt has demanded an explanation of the reports that were published. We will be responding to its demands.

[Al-Biyali] Did Egypt ask for an explanation or an investigation?

[Sultan] It asked for a reviewal and explanation of the matter. Don't let us get into the legal jargon. I am not a man of the law.

[Al-Biyali] Do you believe that the life of an Egyptian person is less valuable than the life of an Israeli?

[Sultan] Never. There is no difference whatsoever between the two. The life of an Egyptian person is very dear. He is a human being with a father, mother, and children. The same thing applies to the Israeli person. They are all dear to their families and people. Why should there be any difference?

[Al-Biyali] I read a strange piece of news about an Egyptian soldier named Muhammad Sulayman al-Sawarikah who was condemned to 450 years in prison in 1973 because he killed seven Israelis. Isn't there a contradiction here? At the same time, Israel refrains from even offering an official apology from one country to another.

[Sultan] Our country condemns these acts and considers them crimes.

The state does not apologize for the actions of an individual, but for its policy. The government cannot apologize for something it is not responsible for. With respect to the story about condemning an Egyptian soldier to 450 years in prison, I ask you to please investigate the report, because as far as I know, the report came from inside an Israeli prison citing a Lebanese who was recently released from prison.

I ask you not to publish this report and promise to find out more about it.

[Al-Biyali] What is the secret behind the timing of the release of such dangerous information condemning Israel?

[Sultan] I tell you this. There are some elements among all parties that are not very happy with the peace process. They are trying to poison the atmosphere in order to hamper progress. For example, some of your opposition papers have suddenly published reports claiming that I killed 100 prisoners.

[Al-Biyali] I was about to ask you where you served during the 1956 war?

[Sultan] I was a 17-year old student in high school. These papers said that I was the commander of a paratrooper unit. I have never been an officer and my military service consisted of being an administrative accounts employee.

[Al-Biyali] You have yet to answer my question about the secret behind choosing the timing of the announcement of the crimes committed during 1956 and 1967.

[Sultan] There are some people who want to harm the peace process. They start telling tales with which they open old wounds. Also, the person who wrote that I was an officer who killed 100 prisoners did not mean to target me specifically. His objective is to poison the atmosphere between Egypt and Israel.

[Al-Biyali] Isn't this issue connected with the next Israeli general election, for example.

[Sultan] Perhaps. Some people wish to damage the Labor Party and restore the Likud to power.

[Al-Biyali] Mr. Rabin used to have senior status in the Israeli army in the two wars.

[Sultan] He was an army officer in 1956 and chief of staff in 1967.

[Al-Biyali] Can this scandal damage Mr. Rabin in the elections?

[Sultan] In certain circumstances it would have damaged his reputation. As I told you, however, the high command had no policy of killing POW's. All its instructions were on how to treat POW's well.

[Al-Biyali] As I asked you before, why were you selected to be ambassador to Egypt?

[Sultan] Your opposition newspapers wrote that the Israeli Government chose me because I bear a special hatred for the Egyptian people. This is not true. I was born in Egypt. When I came here I was very happy because I had been born and raised in this country. To a certain degree, I am an Egyptian product. This is why I do not feel that I am in a strange land because I am a product of this country. I was once a part of it.

[Al-Biyali] What is the difference between what the Nazis did to the Jews and what the Israelis did?

[Sultan] I said this before: Nazi policy was to exterminate the Jews totally. It was an attempt to annihilate an entire people, it followed a definite plan, and resulted in the actual killing of 6 million Jews. As to the second issue, it does not involve the concept that Egyptian lives are less important than Israeli lives. Absolutely not. What happened was an exception; it was never the rule.

[Al-Biyali] Israel says that Egyptian officers and troops perpetrated similar war crimes. Egypt is willing [to investigate]. Why is Israel not willing?

[Sultan] I believe I have answered this question. The investigations, in both countries, will uncover the confessions of individuals. The result will be a reopening of wounds.

[Al-Biyali] The wounds of the families of the Egyptian troops missing in those wars have already been reopened. It is as if the events happened only yesterday. Nothing can now extinguish the fire of grief except a positive attitude by Israel. Is this too much to ask? A yes or no answer is enough.

[Sultan] I believe that this affair calls for self-restraint on both sides in order to have good future relations. We certainly regret what happened very much. The prime minister has made this clear.

[Al-Biyali] Is the answer yes or no?

[Sultan] It is difficult to answer the question in this way. The issue is complex and a yes-or-no answer is not good enough.

[Al-Biyali] Why?

[Sultan] It is a complex issue and has repercussions. We should think of the future and the results.

[Al-Biyali] Mr. Peres made a useful remark, but it needs further clarification. He said: "We are looking for a formula acceptable to both sides."

[Sultan] This means that we will not disregard the Egyptian request because the issue is serious. We will devote much attention to it.

Musa, France's de Charette Comment After Talks

NC1809151095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1400 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette held a news conference at the end of their talks today.

Opening the news conference, Musa said that talks at the ministerial level have concluded and that a number of important issues concerning bilateral ties, developments in the peace process, the situation in the Mediterranean, and other topics were discussed during President Mubarak's meeting with the French foreign minister.

Herve de Charette underlined that Egypt is a basic partner to France in the Mediterranean, as well as in the Near and Middle East. He remarked that France attaches importance to meetings between officials from both countries. As far as the political aspect is concerned, there is a dialogue on various issues that interest both countries, primarily the Middle East peace process, he said.

Touching on the economic aspect, Charette said that the two countries have strong ties, the volume of trade has increased, and cooperation is expanding. He added that a trade protocol valued at 500 million francs, $101 million, will soon be signed.

The French foreign minister described cultural relations between Egypt and France as solid because of the cultural weight each carries and the ancient civilization of both. He added that there is determination to make 1998 Egypt's year in France and France's year in Egypt. He remarked that this will be an opportunity to emphasize the importance and firmness of their relations.

Asked about the role France can play to support the Palestinian Authority [PA], de Charette replied that they discussed the peace process and exchanged information on the ongoing negotiations. The Egyptian and French sides have similar views on this issue and France supports the peace march and encourages the PA and Israel to keep up negotiations until they reach a positive result, he said. He added that just like the EU, France makes a positive contribution and provides assistance to the PA.

Herve de Charette pointed out that the peace march is important not only to the PA and Israel, but to all Mediterranean states. Peace between the Palestinians and Israel will mark a new era in the Mediterranean, he said, adding that the first step in that era will be taken at the Barcelona conference.

The French foreign minister stated that the talks discussed all issues pertaining to bilateral relations and ways to bolster them, as well as the Middle East peace process and efforts to bring peace and stability to the region.

He affirmed his country's interest in involving the Islamic Contact Group in efforts to achieve peace in Bosnia. He added that Egypt will participate in the francophone summit in Cotonou as a member of the francophone group.

He remarked that Egypt and France have long-standing, solid cultural relations and that France is interested in expanding the teaching of the French language in Egypt. Replying to a question on French nuclear tests, Musa said: The French minister supplied us with very important information regarding testing.

The French foreign minister was asked about his country's position on the embargo on Iraq. He replied that Iraq must comply with all UN resolutions. He hoped

Iraq will settle all its differences and return to the international community.

Replying to a question on Bosnia's share of the talks, Musa remarked that the Bosnian issue is important for both countries, and for Mediterranean as well as regional peace. He pointed out that there is a peaceful initiative, pressure, negotiations, NATO action, and a proposed plan. The Bosnian Government accepts the initiative in principle. Hence, the initiative must be given a chance, he said.

Musa affirmed that Egypt will not abandon the Bosnian people if the initiative does not solve the problem. He voiced Egypt's full support for the Bosnian Government, whether they approve or reject the initiative.

De Charette Leaves for Amman

NC1809164495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1517 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette left Cairo for Amman this evening, following a two-day visit during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

De Charette held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on bilateral ties and international issues of mutual interest.

Musa on Possible Meeting With Taha, Taba Talks

NC1909104895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1125 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that reports on a possible meeting between him and Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha are mere speculation. He added that nothing has been decided yet in this regard.

Asked about reported progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks, the possibility of signing an agreement later in Washington, and if Egypt is kept informed about the ongoing developments, Musa said that Egypt is holding contacts with the Palestinians and Israelis to surmount the existing obstacles.

In response to a question about outstanding points, Musa pointed out that this depends on what the two sides agree upon. He emphasized that the Palestinian-Israeli talks had made progress.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Said To Want 'Deal' With U.S.

JN1809165395 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
18 Sep 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-MAJD has learned from very reliable Arab sources that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has asked King Hassan II of Morocco to mediate with the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government to conclude a reconciliation deal between Libya and the United States and Israel. Under the deal, the international embargo on Libya must be lifted and the case of the U.S. plane downed over Lockerbie must be closed.

AL-MAJD can confirm that al-Qadhdhafi has promised to join the peace process with Israel if the United States officially pledges to lift the embargo, drop the Lockerbie issue, and provide guarantees that it will not go back on its commitments once a Libyan-Israeli peace treaty is signed.

The reliable Arab sources further told AL-MAJD that Washington was not enthusiastic about the offer from al-Qadhdhafi, who is known for his vacillation and ability to maneuver and retreat. However, the United States did not dismiss the offer out of hand, but left the door open. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali have several times conveyed al- Qadhdhafi's intentions and reconciliation plans to the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi on NATO Attack on Islam; Bosnia

LD1809184595 Tripoli JANA in English
1803 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Misratah /Al Fatih [September] 18/JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution confirmed that NATO has started to beat the drums of war to attack Islam. The leader revealed that Christian fanatics say that prophet Mohammed (PBUH) [peace be upon him], is a liar, a poet, a criminal and malicious. He confirmed that such talk is not old but it is modern. The Satanic Verses have expressed the culture of the West towards our religion, our prophet and all that we held sacred.

They rung the alarm bells and started once again their preparations to attack the Islamic nation.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi revealed in his speech to the opening session of the universal Islamic Sufi forum that the author of the Satanic Verses has been awareded rewards and medals by the presidents of America, Britian and other western states. He is guarded and respected and glorified in the West because he was prepared to undermine Islam and ridicule it psychologically to open the road once again for the armies.

The leader said NATO which is a Christian alliance and under whose umbrella Zionism occupied Jerusalem and established the state by force in the heart of the Islamic nation, this alliance is now preparing to attack you.

He added we are hearing today about Somalia, Afghanistan, Bosnia- Herzegovina, Iraq, Iran and Libya. These are all Islamic states and the West is siding with one against the other.

We are questioning the reasons for these contradictions. He said these are lies. The thing is not helping Somalia or liberating Afghanistan from the Soviet Union at that time. Presently it is not in defence of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina against the Christians and it is not that Libya committed the Pan Am accident or anything of that sort. Iraq is not doing anything now. They have withdrawn from Kuwait and acknoweldged it. The chapter of Kuwait has ended and has become a matter of history.

The leader added: Then what are the western states doing now in Iraq and how are the Christians defending the Muslims against the Christians in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The leader of the revolution pointed to a statement he made recently to JANA regarding the events in Bosnia and added that the naive believe that these military operations in Bosnia are for the sake of Islam. He confirmed that these operations are maneouvres to experiment with their weapons and get them ready to attack the Muslims.

The leader said they want to fool us in Bosnia-Herzegovina as America said that these operations are in defence of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Therefore the rulers of Islamic countries and particularly the rulers of Arab governments are raising their voices that they are in defense of Bosnia at a time when most of them do not even know where Bosnia-Herzegovina lies. He said that because he knows that America said it. He added: Is there any Muslim who accepts such a farce and mockery.

Al-Qadhdhafi on 'Real Islam,' Jihad

LD1809163495 Tripoli JANA in English
1622 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Misratah/ Al Fatih [September] 18/ JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great Al Fatih Revolution, called for the initiation of mobilisation within the ranks of Muslims by a jihadi cultural movement to eliminate blasphemy and eradicate other [word indistinct] movements which take religion as a cover.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi confirmed in his speech to the opening session of the Universal Islamic Sufi Forum that he reconfirms once again that true Islam is not blasphemy and is not to fight among ourselves, it has nothing to do with the empty speech and conspiracies. Real Islam is that you have to initiate upon your return to your countries jihadi cultural movements to mobilise for jihad and to mobilise Muslims against NATO and the head of its spear which is falsely called Israel.

The leader said: Upon our return to our countries we have to start a real moves against the traitor and mercenary rulers who want to subjugate the Islamic nation for the Jews and the Christians. We have to declare that we will confront them so that each ruler will become afraid of the Sufi movement and will apprehend the old historical Islamic movements present here today. Each ruler has to choose whether to take the root of the nation or to become himself a target and we act against him.

The leader revealed: The drums of NATO marching towards us are beating and we are hearing them beating. We are hearing rockets launched from America passing over our heads to strike Baghdad and now they are preparing their weapons to attack us. There are still some rulers who want to go to America and visit it and try to be friendly to it. They take the Jews and the Christians as guardians and masters. The Koran itself confirms that those who take the Jews and Christians as guardians and masters have are not from us.

Morocco

Economic Cooperation With China Reviewed

LD1509133695 Rabat MAP in English
1304 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Sept. 15 (MAP) — Ways of fostering Moroccan-Chinese economic and commercial cooperation were reviewed lately here at a meeting between Moroccan Foreign Trade Minister Mohamed Alami and a Chinese delegation from the International Commerce Promotion Council.

The two sides reviewed the joint business and partnership projects and stressed the need to increase trade exchanges that do not exceed for the time being USD 200 millions. These exchanges are dominated mainly by tea (imported by Morocco) and phosphates and its by-products (imported by China).

The Chinese party showed readiness to take part in Morocco's privatization and socio-economic development programs.

Morocco and China signed last March a new commercial accord providing for the encouragement of mutual investment, consolidation of economic cooperation and promotion of trade exchanges.

To publicize Chinese products in Morocco and inform Moroccans about China's huge economic and industrial potentials, a multi- sectorial Chinese exhibition will be held in Casablanca June 1996.

Sudan

Government Troop Casualties Reported in South

NC1809164295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1540 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 18 Sep (MENA)—Some 45 military men of the Sudanese Government forces, including seven officers, have been killed in the ongoing battles between government troops and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] near the strategic city of Nimule on the border with Uganda. Government troops seek to liberate the city from the SPLM.

The government troops achieved a series of victories over the SPLM recently. They liberated the strategic city of Kaia and the city of (Kajukaji).

SNDG Urges Solidarity To Topple Regime

NC1809202195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1821 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Mr. Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of the opposition Sudanese National Democratic Grouping [SNDG], has urged the Sudanese regular forces to join the Sudanese people, for the sake of Sudan's freedom, in ridding the country of the ruling regime in Khartoum.

Al-Mirghani said in a press statement he released today that the Sudanese regime's violations of the rights of neighboring countries and its attempts to shake their peace and stability has become a firm policy of al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime. The latest of these attempts were the Banghazi incidents in Libya through which the forces of terrorism and extremism, which are supported by the Khartoum regime, attempted to shake security and stability in Libya as part of their aggressive schemes following the sinful attack on President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa.

In its statement, the head of the opposition SNDG asked the international community, brothers, and friends for further solidarity with the Sudanese people in order to topple the ruling regime in Khartoum.

Egyptian Ministry's Rest House Returned

NC1809164395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1550 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi, minister of public works and water resources, has announced that the rest house of Egyptian irrigation engineers in the area of Dunqulah in northern Sudan was returned this morning and that Engineer Muhammad Ihab of the Nile Water Authority and his family have returned to the house, where they have lived for one year.

The minister, who returned from Rome yesterday after attending an international conference on irrigation and drainage, said that he met in Rome with the Sudanese irrigation minister and discussed the seizure of the rest house by the authorities on 11 September. He pointed out that the Sudanese minister promised that he would take a measure that serves the interests of both countries in accordance with the Nile water agreement they signed in 1959.

Radi added that the rest house is an important station that measures the water level during floods. He explained that the rest house is under the supervision of the joint Nile Water Authority in accordance with the Nile water agreement. [passage omitted]

Human Rights Group Reports on Arrests, Torture

NC1809161895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1435 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—The Sudanese Organization for Human Rights, Cairo branch, reports that the Sudanese authorities are keeping up their violation of human rights by direct oppression against unarmed citizens, arrests, and the most repulsive methods of physical and moral torture.

The organization said in a statement today that the Sudanese authorities have arrested four citizens. They are Siddiq Yusuf, an engineer, Usamah Siddiq Yusuf, 'Ali Khalifah, an engineer, and Jalal al-Sayyid, a lawyer.

The organization pointed out that these persons, whose families have no idea of their whereabouts, are being tortured and that they were arrested several times before. The Sudanese organization called on the authorities to release the detainees immediately or give them a fair trial before an ordinary judge.

GCC Ministerial Council Holds Meeting in Riyadh

Bahraini Foreign Minister Speaks

LD1809125095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 90 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The work of the 56th ordinary session of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council began this afternoon at the headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh, with their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the member states in attendance. The Kingdom's delegation is led by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

At the beginning of the opening meeting, His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the Bahraini foreign minister, who is the chairman of the current session, delivered a speech in which he said: It gives me pleasure to greet you all as we meet today in the 56th session of our ministerial council, and to welcome the brothers, the finance and petroleum ministers of the GCC member states who are participating with us in this meeting, from which we hope to emerge with the consolidation of our joint cooperation leading toward the realization of the aims that guarantee our states' security and stability as well as the prosperity of their peoples.

He added: This meeting of ours comes shortly prior to the convening of the 16th summit of their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC member states in Muscat, and a few months after the Manama summit, whose resolutions emphasized the importance of bolstering the blessed march of our Council in the political, economic, and security spheres, and the removal of any pending issues and problems that may obstruct that.

He pointed out that the most important requirement regarding the region's security and stability is the commitment of all the states of the region to the principles of good neighborliness and noninterference in internal affairs. He said: Proceeding from this, we would like to repeat our appeal to the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately and positively respond to the initiatives of the fraternal UAE [United Arab Emirates] that call for finding a final solution for the issue of the three islands, which belong to the UAE, by peaceful means.

He added: In this connection, I would like to refer to the coordination meeting held at the tripartite level between the GCC member states and the European Union in the city of Granada last July, when a comprehensive and frank review was made of the economic relations between the two groups and the go-slow being experienced by these relations, while reaffirming that that meeting should be a new step in the direction of overcoming the obstacles that hinder the path of the Italian cooperation agreement, which was approved by the two sides in 1988, and the activation of the spheres of trade exchange, investment, and technology transfer.

Further on Bahraini Minister's Address

*LD1809144595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1244 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah has stressed the need for Iraq to continue "to implement all the UN resolutions relating to its aggression on the State of Kuwait, especially with regard to the release of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners detained in Iraqi jails." This came in the speech with which Shaykh Muhammad Bin- Mubarak opened the 56th session of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council here this afternoon with the attendance of all foreign ministers of the GCC member-states, including Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The Bahraini foreign minister — the chairman of the current session — expressed hope that "recent events in Iraq and the fact that Iraq has expressed its readiness to reveal new information relating to its program of weapons of mass destruction will make Iraq implement all the UN resolutions, a matter that will help reduce the sufferings of the fraternal people of Iraq and maintain Iraq's territorial integrity."

In his speech, Shaykh Muhammad dealt with many issues of current interest to the GCC member-states at all Gulf, regional, and international levels, including the issue of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] which are occupied by Iran, peace in the Middle East, developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and economic relations with the member countries of the European Union, as well as developments with regard to the member countries of the Damascus Declaration.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah concluded his speech by expressing the great satisfaction of the GCC member states with the spirit of concord and understanding which prevails between the sisterly states of the region. In this respect he talked about the signing of a memorandum of understanding by Saudi Arabia and Yemen, the signing of the final border maps and demarcation by Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman, in addition to the agreement on border demarcation signed by Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman.

Shaykh Muhammad also stressed that the GCC welcomes these steps and he said that the member states hope to see this spirit prevail and encompass the settlement of all outstanding issues between the brothers with a view to achieving security, stability, and prosperity for the states and peoples of the GCC. [passage omitted]

He said that the GCC member states are hoping for the start of a new Arab era of cooperation and solidarity which will complement the principles and objectives set out in the Damascus Declaration, based on a rejection of aggression and the use of force or threat of force among the Arab states and also the adoption of a policy of dialogue to solve disputes in the framework of higher national and pan-Arab interests and a common destiny.

As regards the issue of the UAE's three islands which are occupied by Iran, the Bahraini foreign minister again appealed to Iran to respond immediately and positively to the initiatives which have been made by the UAE and which call for a peaceful solution of the dispute based on the principle of good neighborliness and the non-acquisition of the territories of others by force.

Shaykh Muhammad reiterated the call of the GCC member states for a full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, especially holy Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

On the current developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Shaykh Muhammad expressed the hope of the GCC member states that the recent military and political movements will lead to a just settlement for all parties concerned, especially for the Bosnian republic. He said that the GCC supports the efforts made in this respect by the United Nations, United States, and European Union.

Shaykh Muhammad appealed to the warring factions in Afghanistan and Somalia, urging them to take into account the interests of their homelands and peoples and respond to the efforts made to attain national reconciliation, stop shedding blood, and restore peace and stability. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that the GCC states have had a cooperation framework agreement with the EU states since 1988. It aims at promoting commercial exchanges, investment and technology transfer. The main obstacles hampering joint cooperation are the energy and carbon taxes and the attempts to obstruct the achievement of an agreement on free trade. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Muhammad said the committee had reached some suggestions to facilitate the member states' agreement on a standardized customs tariff through its classification of goods and setting percentages for a limited period of time. He expressed his hope to see the committee reach a final agreement on these suggestions at its next meeting which is scheduled for next October. [passage omitted]

After Shaykh Muhammad delivered his speech the rest of the session was held behind closed doors. It was adjourned this afternoon to reconvene this evening.

Meeting Concludes

LD1809192395 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] concluded their second session at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Riyadh this evening. The proceedings of the 56th ordinary session of the GCC Ministerial Council began this afternoon. [passage omitted]

His highness the Bahraini foreign minister, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, chairman of the current session of the GCC Ministerial Council, later said that during its second session this evening the council concluded the discussion of the item on political issues. In a statement made after the session, he added that the council had discussed the political issues concerning the GCC states. He also said there was mutual understanding over these issues, which will be discussed again tomorrow.

He added that their highnesses and excellencies the ministers also discussed several economic issues, including cooperation with the economic blocs, particularly European dialogue [as heard]. The forthcoming Amman Economic Summit was also discussed by the ministers.

The Bahraini minister also pointed out that the council examined issues of coordination in the economic area and tariffs and the results achieved by the finance ministers in this respect. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

CDLR Bulletin Assails Regime's 'Stupid Actions'

MS0809120695 London CDLR Monitor in English 18 Aug 95

[Bulletin No. 61 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received via Internet 8 September]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — The Folly of the Regime and the Expected Disaster The event of al-Hudayfi'ss (RIP) killing marks a dangerously momentous turn in the struggle between the regime

and the reform movement. If al Sa'ud fail to realise the disaster of taking such severe actions which hideously change their methods of dealing with the reform movement, then the consequences will be extremely disadvantageous. No matter how Nayif and Fahd attempt to conceal their crime with a false veil of legitimacy, it will not prevent the appearance of reactions, indications of which have already become apparent. In the past, the government has only spilt blood in two ways; firstly with justification which is accepted by the people, for example, legitimate punishment or armed resistance, and secondly by killing in complete secrecy with a total news black-out, particularly applied to members of sects or groups that have no public support behind them. In the case of Abdallah al-Hudayf, neither justification applies. The ruler didn't kill him in secret. The man was judicially murdered after which the regime proudly declared its crime, thinking that they were talking to a group of idiots and cowards, believing that the attempt to cover the crime with legitimacy would actually fool the people, and that they would be frightened by the spilling of blood. Unfortunately for such rulers, who have attempted to raise a sword which is too heavy for them to carry, the people are neither ignorant idiots nor cringing cowards. If these rulers believe that they have succeeded in depending on a group of judges who have sold their souls to the devil, then let them know that the Nation has now become the judge and the people the jury. These people have already passed the sentence after hearing the Interior Minister's statement, they have decided to place the total responsibility for the crime upon the shoulders of the rulers and the Judiciary. The judicial proceedings have already begun, as far as the Nation is concerned, with the trial of those who have spilt innocent blood. If the rulers believe that they are frightening people with the smell of blood, then they are sadly mistaken, because when the authorities challenge the people with killing and torture, a man is quite likely to say to himself, "If I am to be killed anyway, let me die a brave man rather than a coward, and let my death have some meaning." If the regime has interpreted the peaceful activities carried out by the Youth of the reform and their leaders as being cowardly, then they are totally wrong. Time has proved that the Youth of the peninsula, despite their high standards of living, are the ones in the forefront in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kashmir and even Chechnya. They have set an excellent example of steadfastness and solidarity since the beginning of the reform and change movement. However, the foolish regime has committed a number of stupid actions at the same time. They prevented the Youth from releasing their enthusiasm in peaceful terms, arrested their leaders and incarcerated them, and provoked them by killing and torturing innocent reform activists. The regime then began to challenge and threaten them through the media and press. So how are these young people going to control their actions after such intense provocation, besiegement and challenge? Does the regime not realise the danger of gambling on people's cowardice, in deciding that the only way to keep the people suppressed is by the spilling of blood and the commencement of a massacre of the other detainees? As long as the Judiciary is prepared to ensure a cover for Nayif, this terror will probably even reach the prominent detained scholars. The situation is extremely dangerous and the ruling body is out of control, with every prince acting as though he were the State. At present, Nayif and Salman are attempting to drag the whole regime into a bloody reign of terror against the reformers, after succeeding in entangling the regime in the killing of al-Hudayf. The regime has so far failed to realise that it is much more vulnerable than other oppressive regimes. Some of their vulnerability lies in the fact that the whole regime is based upon the royal family. As all the princes have some relationship with the ruling of the country, this makes the noble 6,000 an easy target for any revenge. The difficulty of providing strict security for all 6000 princes is horrendous. Another vulnerable point is the sympathy of Muslims world-wide towards the reform movement in the peninsula, and the readiness of many of them to take action against al Sa'ud. So, would Fahd prevent freedom of travel and movement again? There are numerous other points that make the regime unable to protect themselves if they insist on indulging themselves in a bloodthirsty cycle of violence. Does the royal family wish to live in complete terror surrounded by 'bodyguards' and always looking behind themselves or would they rather be able to enjoy freedom of movement? Perhaps they would prefer to see the "Algerisation" of the Arab peninsula? If the decision is placed in the hands of the psychotic Nayif, the malignant Sultan, the tyrant Salman or the absent Fahd it would seem that there is no escape from this conclusion. They are the ones who have escalated the struggle from being a mere ban on public appearances — to the sacking from jobs — to imprisonment — to torture — and finally to death. The Nation is requested, through its scholars, intellectuals and dignitaries, even from

inside the royal family itself, to attempt to contain the situation speedily and to initiate public activities in order to guide the enthusiasm of the angry young people. It is absolutely necessary for all leaders of society to explore ways of putting the "house" back in order, otherwise there will be no escape from the disastrous consequences.

The Committee appeals to the security forces, the police, the army and others to be careful not to embroil themselves in such a quagmire, they should consider their religious morals and therefore distance themselves from the actions of the oppressors, and should disobey their orders for the sake of their Creator.

REACTIONS... The Committee's office has been inundated with calls from all over the Kingdom, and from all parts of the world about the crime and that, surely, is contrary to the plan of the regime, which was to terrify the people. The Committee has won many new supporters who have been driven by their anger at the death of their brother al-Hudayf. They have placed themselves and their talents at the Committee's disposal. The reaction of the Nation, with the exception of the regime's cronies, to the Government's statement regarding the killing of al-Hudayf was anger and disgust. The anger of the people directed towards the judges was even greater than that directed at the Interior Ministry, which is well known for such vile and ignoble acts. The house of the victim's father, Shaykh Abdul Rahman al- Hudayf, has been crowded by people from all over the peninsula showing their support, as well as being inundated by continuous messages of support by phone. People have praised the high moral standards and steady personality of the father and mother of the martyr, as well as his relatives. A large number of people have visited the grave to pray for the deceased, which led the authorities to despatch forty security personnel to the cemetery at midnight on Monday. It is not known exactly what they have done to the grave, except that all indications as to the name of the deceased have been removed from the grave. It is feared that the body has been removed. Talk on the street that has recently surfaced implies that nothing except violence has any effect on the regime, and that those who seek blood will surely find it. This line of thought is to be expected when all means of public expression has been ruthlessly suppressed. Scholars, intellectuals and dignitaries etc. are requested to take the initiative in organising a wide series of public activities in order to disperse the anger of the Youth and so avoid violent reactions. The incident has caused a dramatic change in the views of most intellectuals and scholars who had previously only mildly criticised the regime, and who were only recently finding excuses for the regime's actions. They have now become convinced that the regime is no different to any other oppressive regime. In fact, the al- Sa'ud regime is decidedly worse, as it uses Islam and Shari'a to cover its crimes. The Committee has prepared a detailed statement to reply to that published by the Interior Ministry. From the legal investigation, it has become apparent that the changes the authorities allege occurred, which are; the spilling of acid substances with the intention of causing death, the possession of arms with intent to use them, and communication with the Committee; do not provide the legitimate right to impose the death penalty. The judges have passed the sentence dictated by the ruler, not that of Allah. In addition to this, the whole background, confirms that Nayif and the King are guilty of persecuting the innocent. The Committee has issued the 38th Communique with the heading, "The Authorities Sanction the Spilling of Blood," in reply to the statement issued by the Interior Ministry. It refutes the Ministry's statement and shows the fallacies and fabrications it contains. The Committee holds the King, Nayif and the judges as being responsible for the blood that has been spilt and the life taken without legitimate reason. Today, the Committee will issue Communique 39 with the bulletin, exposing the conspiracy of the Interior Ministry with the Judiciary over the crime of killing Abdallah al-Hudayf whilst under torture.

Nayif's Stand Between a Reformer's Companion and the Companion of his Wife.

The following is a comparison between two similar cases dealt with by Nayif. In the first case, a righteous man was killed and a quasi-legitimate justification was made by the Judiciary in order to attempt to justify the killing. The second case was that of a criminal who was released a few months after his imprisonment in a five star hotel.

Table

Name of Defendant: Abdallah al -Hudayf,Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahman Occupation: Businessman, Singer. Reputation of Defendant: Excellent behaviour, Honourable personality ,Impudent, Organiser of parties for princes and princesses. Defendant's Connections:Reformers and Preachers.The Interior Minister's wife. (As lover) Defendant's Action: Tipped acid on Sa'ud al-Shirbin. Fired a machine gun on 'Ali as-Sha'lan, severely injuring him in hip and thigh. Personality of victim: Interrogator known for torturing preachers and reformers. Member of the Organisation for the Enjoining of Good Actions. Also active in discovering vice dens. Reason for Crime/Revenge for torture: A cover-up for the scandal pertaining to the Interior Minister's wife. Defendant's possessions: "Alleged" arms, not knownmachine guns RBG launchers and other arms. Treatment of the Defendant by the Authorities: Various types of torture. Arrest of father and brothers and their cruel mistreatment. Very luxurious treatment with weekly outings. The Judiciary: Originally sentenced to 20 years, then killed. A death warrant issued as a justification for his death. Intense pressure placed on his victim, who was imprisoned, to persuade him to withdraw his complaint. Khalid then released, without trial, by royal pardon. Declaration: The media declared his name as a dangerous criminal who was killed to protect national security. Presented by the media at parties and hour long interviews. Still enjoys freedom under the protection of his "beloved."

United Arab Emirates

Maid Gets Death Sentence for Killing Employer

NC1609074295 Paris AFP in English
0745 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-'Ayn, United Arab Emirates, Sept 16 (AFP) - A United Arab Emirates court condemned a teenaged Filipina maid to death here on Saturday [16 September] for stabbing to death her employer.

Yemen

Speaker Discusses Extradition, Saudi Ties

JN1609122495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
16 Sep 95 p 21

["Exclusive" interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, by Shakir al-Jawhari in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Jawhari] Which former leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] do you expect will return to Yemen in light of the president's contacts with them?

[Al-Ahmar] The issue of contacts is out of the question. The president did not contact anyone. However, if anyone telephones him, he is willing to receive that call. As you know, the general amnesty issued by the president includes everyone except those whose names were announced and who were subpoenaed by court order.

[Al-Jawhari] Did you file a request in the countries they are residing in for their deportation to Yemen?

[Al-Ahmar] The Ministry of Interior had asked that four or five former YSP leaders be handed over through the Interpol, but later on, it went back on its request.

[Al-Jawhari] Who are those individuals whose deportation was requested by the Ministry of Interior?

[Al-Ahmar] 'Ali Salim al-Bid is one of them.

[Al-Jawhari] What is the actual value of the sentences which the Yemeni courts are expected to issue in absentia against the 16 names on the list?

[Al-Ahmar] There is no doubt that these sentences will be of value even though they are issued in absentia because they committed major crimes. So long as there are no sentences issued against them, some people will think that the crime they committed are minor. The sentences will convict them of their crimes. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] A month ago, the Ministry of Interior arrested many members of al-Jihad Organization even though it fought alongside the forces of unity, how did the situation change?

[Al-Ahmar] As far as we know, the organization which calls itself al-Jihad Organization does not exist under that name. However, there used to be elements that wanted to take revenge of the YSP. They carried out incidents before the war and before unity. When the war broke out, they fought alongside the forces of legitimacy out of revenge motives. After that, however, they committed some violations such as desecrating tombs and raising sedition in mosques. Therefore, the state just had to arrest them.

[Al-Jawhari] Which tombs did they desecrate?

[Al-Ahmar] They desecrated tombs in Aden and Hadhramaut.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you mean the tombs of idols such as al-'Aydarus and others?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes.

[Al-Jawhari] Did they not fabricate similar seditions in Sanaa?

[Al-Ahmar] No. They are not in Sanaa because there is nothing there that calls for their resentment and revenge as opposed to the southern governorates.

[Al-Jawhari] Some of those in al-Jihad Organization who were arrested used to teach in scientific institutions. They are Egyptian teachers. What is your information about this, given that a ranking security official is the source of this information?

[Al-Ahmar] If a ranking security official, who is a competent authority, told you this then he knows better than I do. I do not know that there is an active group called al-Jihad Organization. There is no Egyptian, Yemeni, or any other active group in Yemen.

[Al-Jawhari] Information says that some of them are working in scientific instiutions that are affiliated with you as the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG]?

[Al-Ahmar] The scientific institutions are not affiliated with us. They are affiliated with the Ministry of Education. The ministry is part of the government and the government is part of the state and the state is part of the people. The ministries are neither affiliated with the parties, the General People's Congress, the YRG, nor any other body.

[Al-Jawhari] But the YRG is opposed to unifying curricula to include scientific institutions. We are you still opposed to that?

[Al-Ahmar] All the curricula of schools and institutions are subject to government laws and to the Ministry of Education's curricula. The curricula are not different whatsoever.

[Al-Jawhari] It is said that the scientific institutions focus on religious subjects and that it produces advocates of the YRG?

[Al-Ahmar] This is what the people want, The Yemeni people are religious Muslim people. Every father wants a religious upbringing for his son. This is a reality throughout Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] It is known that the YRG includes you, as shaykhs, and the Muslim Brotherhood. Perhaps, the Muslim Brotherhood now wants to move out of the coalition.

[Al-Ahmar] Following the YRG establishment, there are no longer several wings. We are now one wing and one bloc.

[Al-Jawhari] Are your positions identical on everything?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes. They are identical on everything. However, in every party there are differences in views over methods.

[Al-Jawhari] Let us now discuss your personal role in improving relations with Saudi Arabia. How did you manage to achieve this?

[Al-Ahmar] We talked about this issue before.

[Al-Jawhari] I would like to know whether you are currently satisfied with the level of the relationship with Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Ahmar] Yes. I am personally as well as other officials and the whole Yemeni people are fully satisfied.

[Al-Jawhari] What puzzles me is the fact that when the Arabs differ they publish all their differences but when they agree they hide all points of agreement.

[Al-Ahmar] We agreed to end the estrangement which resulted from the Gulf crisis.

[Al-Jawhari] Joint committees are now discussing border issues. How far has the work of these committees reached?

[Al-Ahmar] All states and peoples have border problems. This is natural in relations between states because borders are not demarcated. We are exactly like others, so there are border areas which have never been demarcated, and there are other border areas which were demarcated in accordance with the 1934 al-Ta'if agreement.

[Al-Jawhari] What is your current opinion about Yemen's future after what happened in terms of unity, the declaration of secession, the subsequent war to entrench unity, the decline in the riyal's exchange rate, the rise in the cost of living, and the current attempts to remedy the economic situation?

[Al-Ahmar] I am always optimistic, and I am now more optimistic than before. God be praised, relations with Saudi Arabia have been ironed out. The Yemeni currency's exchange rate has risen anew, and the prices of consumer products have declined. This season, the agricultural harvest will be very good due to sufficient rainfall.

I, as well as others, are optimistic that matters will be better in the future from all aspects. God be praised, Yemen managed to move out of its impasse.

[Al-Jawhari] Did you agree with Saudi Arabia to open its doors to Yemeni workers?

[Al-Ahmar] We agreed on many things, including this issue. Yemeni workers will return to Saudi Arabia but in organized ways.

[Al-Jawhari] How will their return be organized?

[Al-Ahmar] Their return will be organized by receiving the Yemeni workers on the basis of guarantees and in small numbers in a way by which these numbers will rise gradually.

[Al-Jawhari] The al-Ta'if agreement stipulates that Yemen and Saudi Arabia should give each other the most-favored-nation status.

[Al-Ahmar] This was agreed and emphasized in the memorandum of understanding.

[Al-Jawhari] Will Saudi Arabia resume its aid to Yemen?

[Al-Ahmar] His Majesty King Fahd gave us assurances to this effect. We also obtained firm assertions that Saudi Arabia does not provide any aid to the opponents of the Yemeni regime. In our discussions, we focused on the present and future. [passage omitted]

Relations With Saudi Arabia 'Back to Normal'

*LD1809222995 Riyadh SPA in English
1958 GMT 18 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sharja, Sept 18, SPA — Yemeni Presidential Adviser Brigadier General Yehia al-Mutawakil has described Saudi-Yemeni relations as historic and an essential element for both countries.

In a statement published by the UAE [United Arab Emirates] Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHOROUQ today, he said the recent visit by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Saudi Arabia brought things back to normal.

He also pointed out that trade relations between the two neighbours are beginning to move forward which will open new horizons for Saudi Yemeni ties.

Saddam Addresses Cabinet on Administration

JN1809193695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has chaired the 36th session of the Council of Ministers. The council discussed the topics on its ordinary agenda and endorsed regulations for opening private institutes for foreign languages instruction and for intensive preparatory coursework.

The council also discussed the nutrition regimen for hospital residents and means of supplying, storing, and prescribing medicine, as well as methods for storing and maintaining medical equipment. The council took measures to reorganize the nutritional, medical storage, and maintenance systems, and approved financial incentives for workers in these fields.

Regarding the effect of incentives on improving performance and the course set by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, regarding the democratic administration of state agencies and the socialist sector, his excellency delivered an important and comprehensive speech at the 36th session of the Council of Ministers, in which he said:

The incentive system in the Ministry of Health was initiated 10 years ago. It is necessary to invigorate work and performance in the departments of the state, not only under difficult circumstances but also to develop the Socialist Sector and to promote its production so that it will achieve its objectives in terms of comprehensive and fair development. [sentence as heard] We warned then, and we warn now, that if incentives become part of the salary they will lose their effect. So, it is necessary to make sure that the formulas should not deviate from the objectives set for them.

His excellency said: Democratic administration in the Socialist Sector should not negate the responsibility of the leader and should not confine this responsibility to one individual. Before a period of time, we decided to assign representatives of the party and the people's councils to grain milling companies to improve performance and to ascertain the fairness of the work. We believe that this experiment will be successful.

Regarding the role and model of administration in the capitalist and socialist systems, his excellency said: In the capitalist regimes, state agencies are small. As we know, they serve the interests of companies. The capitalist companies, together with the state agencies, facilitate the general movement of the society. The companies, on the other hand, are run by their boards of directors which consist of the owners of the capitals of these companies who take immediate and calculated decisions according to their own interests.

In the socialist systems, whose administrative departments are responsible for vast economic activities and services, the vast nature of agencies and the weakness of personal incentives lead in most cases to slackened productivity, poor coordination, and squandered resources. However, if we manage to bring the spirit of the private sector into the socialist administration, and if we successfully achieve interaction among workers with their various administrative and technical levels in a fashion leading to sound decisions and high-quality performance affecting their income and posts while preserving a margin of growth in the public capital, then the socialist system will achieve its objectives of fair development with minimum losses and sacrifices.

On how to effect such an interaction among the various levels of workers — from the minister down to subordinates, including administrators, technicians, and workers — the leader president, may God watch over him, said: No matter how astute and capable a minister, department head, or an installation director can be of dealing with particulars, he will not achieve tangible results unless he manages to supervise his subordinates with love and discipline. When we talk about love in this field, we do not mean hypocritical love, but genuine love along with discipline by both the superior and subordinate. Preaching is not enough to achieve major results. Rather, there should be discipline, interaction, and a striving for improvement. If an exchange of views takes place in our war councils, is there any reason why administrative quarters in the civilian sector fail to do so? Supposedly, nobody should close his door or office to lower ranks. Rather, he should listen to any opinion that would lead to improving performance, reducing expenses, and increasing and improving production. If we ensure interaction and reduce paperwork, which blinds both the eyes and hearts, then I believe that we will attain good results. If this spirit of action finds its way into the laws and regulations and become a prevailing practice among all workers, then the state agencies will definitely develop. But if this spirit of action is adopted only temporarily, like moving in response to an emergency, such as a fire, and administrative problems are not resolved from within, then the socialist sector's agencies will remain underdeveloped.

His excellency then explained the dimensions of the issue in question. He analyzed the nature of the required relationship between the state agencies and the party on the one hand, and the masses of the people on the other. He said: In Iraq, there are still symbols and entities with no firm links among them at all levels. The Ba'th Party, for example, is a great revolutionary entity and a tremendous source of human and faithful energy. However, it is preoccupied with its own entity, organizational work, and self-administration. It leads the masses on occasion, and there is a spiritual interaction between it and the masses. However, there is no deep daily interaction between the two sides.

The administrative branch is a big entity that has capabilities and potentials. However, these capabilities operate alone and interact only infrequently with the people and the party. True, there are party members in the state agencies. But are there horizontal channels among the agencies that interact with the will of the party and the masses, each in its field? I, as the secretary of the party and president of the state, say no. One may ask: Is the level of interaction between the state agencies with the people similar to that in other countries? Here we ask this person: Is this our measuring standard? Should we imitate others or present a model to the nation which it will emulate in order to realize a great achievement?

What I want to explain is that the party is a great achievement and potential, and that the state's agencies are enormous and their expertise is great. However, we do not feel that there is a revolutionary enthusiasm in their work. How can we relay this enthusiasm through interdependent healthy channels that interact with each other and do not cancel out the responsibility of any of the three elements: the people, the party, and the administrative agencies? This should be done through transmission and movement according to the theory of equal distribution of pressure in liquids so that we can reach a great will resulting from the interaction of all potentials and volitions, and not the result of one of them alone.

His excellency said: The circumstances resulting from war and blockade made the impending projects and those willing to achieve them too many. [sentence as heard] However, our psychological nature is not inclined toward procrastination. We started a partial implementation of these projects, particularly through using the party in emergencies and using the administrative agencies' capabilities, the material capabilities in particular, in activating the party. However, we have to press ahead with this approach — an approach of extending horizontal channels among the party, the state agencies, and people. This approach is different from what is being implemented by others despite the fact that our credo is part of the human legacy, and we are the first to advocate interaction with heritage and civilization in terms of thought and models. However, we did not and will not be deluded and say that we are an imitated part. On the contrary, we are a natural offspring of our nation. We correct things according to this approach. [passage as heard]

Addressing members of the Council of ministers, his excellency said: Every minister in capitalist societies works just like you day and night. However, they derive their abilities from interaction with capitalist companies and the interests of these companies and members of parliaments derive their abilities from the convictions of their voters. Heads of state in these societies act in accordance with the electoral calculations and not ideological bases, despite their love for their homeland and people.

As for us, our confidence in our people is great, because we have had a deep, comprehensive, and ideological faith in them since we were high school students.

We believe in our people, and in the known formula of sacrifice. We also respect the people's will. Hence, we should be creative and proceed forward not just to do something unusual to draw the attention to others, but because our credo is not a replica but an Iraqi model. This model represents the will of the Iraqis' various strata and faiths. It also represents the outcome of common interaction, along with its common meanings, for this great people.

Is it sufficient to say that we have done much in the past 27 years? Or should we do much more with the same high determination? I wonder once again: Why do the people elect their representatives to the National Assembly without us giving them the opportunity to represent themselves in the state's apparatus, so this apparatus can gain the spirit of the people's direct action?

Why does not a minister as well as the heads of the ministry's departments and installations hold a dialogue among themselves, which can be joined, with the same spirit, by the Ba'th Party and the people? A representative of the people or the party cannot be appointed or discharged by a director general, nor can a director general grant or deny him privileges.

At the outset of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, we had beginnings in various fields. The spirit of these beginnings was useful, but they were accompanied by some failures. However, we now have high experience and capabilities, so a member in the command of a Ba'th Party group is not now the same as some comrades used to be at the outset of the revolution.

Even when some failures occurred, the situation would be visible and it would be easy to address. We should not forget that the oldest formation of an administrative body in the world had been present in the Iraqi state.

This state was often inclined toward creative methods, not imitating methods. It also feared the new formulas.

This representation of the people's spirit in the state organs should not be controlled by these organs such that one cannot be promoted, punished, or changed by anyone. This also applies to the Ba'th Party's representative, who should come from outside the state organs. This will expand benign cooperation, so we will create interaction, care, and competition for the best.

Concluding, his excellency said: There is a spiritual stability in these ideas, and they will be put forward in order to discuss the best formulas for their implementation. The state's methods are open for discussion. When we are not convinced of any of these methods, we will change it. However, and as I said in a previous talk, when we make a law and begin to implement it, we should abide by it, because the people are the source of law. We should also depart from external appearances, because they are meaningless. It is the substance that creates the external appearances which suit it. Moreover, we should respect public funds, because they are an ethical trust. Public funds are also a financial trust in our constitutional and legal responsibility.

'Udayy Declines To Discuss Political Issues

MM1909110995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad Kadri Hasan: "Politics Omitted From Interview With 'Udayy, Who Declined To Talk About Husayn Kamil"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad — All officials in Iraq currently have a pronounced allergy to journalists. And despite the presence of numerous Arab journalists covering an Islamic conference held recently in Baghdad, none of them managed to obtain an interview with any official. It was especially difficult to arrange an interview with 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, in view of the fact that he shuns public events, and even soccer matches despite chairing the Olympic Committee and the Iraqi Football [soccer] Federation.

An interview with 'Udayy is important, now that all sources and information confirm that disagreements between him and General Husayn Kamil were among the reasons that pushed the former military industrialization minister to leave Iraq the way he did and defect to Jordan.

It has become clear that one of the results of Husayn Kamil's defection is that 'Udayy himself is now cautious when he speaks, even to the point of abstention. And if he does speak, he speaks about anything other than politics, even though he holds numerous posts.

It was sports activities that made 'Udayy more prominent than his brother, Qusayy. Especially as he started his career in this sphere and achieved some success; in his era the Iraqi soccer team qualified for the World Cup finals in Mexico in 1986.

And it was natural for 'Udayy to attend recently a match in the Asian Club Championship between the Jordanian al-Wahdat Club and the al-Zawra' team, for several reasons, including the fact that it was the first official match to break the sports blockade imposed on Iraq since 1990. A huge crowd attended the match despite the high prices: 3,000 Iraqi dinars a ticket (which is more than a month's salary).

It seems that 'Udayy was keen to attend the match to confirm that he was still the Olympic Committee chairman, especially as there are rumors in Baghdad that he has been stripped of all his posts, including those relating to sport.

Nevertheless, 'Udayy did not sit in the box allocated to senior officials, and the fans — 40,000 of them — did not see him. He entered a special room in the box surrounded by mirror-like tinted glass so that he could watch the match without being seen by the spectators. This room has in the past been allocated to radio comentators.

'Udayy left his box in the stands 20 minutes before the end of the game. I had requested an interview with 'Udayy from his press secretary, who promised to do his best, on the understanding that I do not ask any questions on Gen. Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan. 'Udayy emerged suddenly, and I caught up with him, and despite the very tight security, his press secretary managed to alert him to my presence. He agreed to the interview, which I began with questions about the game that breached the sports blockade. He said: "We thank our brothers in Jordan and Qatar for their initiative in breaking the sports blockade imposed on Iraq. This is not unusual for Jordan in view of its close relations with Iraq, especially in the difficult circumstances of the last five years, and God willing, this could augur well. We hope that this is the prelude to lifting the unjust blockade imposed on our country, so as to enable Iraq to rise again, to serve the nation and our people in Jordan, and our Arab people everywhere."

On Iraq's participation in the Atlanta Olympic Games in the United States next summer, he said: "We are pleased to participate in the Olympic Games, but our happiness could have been greater had the competition not been limited to just ourselves and Jordan. However, any team reaching the finals will be a representative for the others, and will find it honorable enough to represent Arab and Asian soccer."

He added: "Competition is good in all sports. In the last five years we have had a decline in this respect, despite our attempts to obtain permission for Iraqi players to compete abroad."

When I began asking questions about politics, he declined to answer the first question concerning his views on the Jordanian monarch's speech. In his answers to the other questions, 'Udayy used the language of diplomacy but repeatedly used the phrase "our relationship with the Jordanian people" or the Arab people without directing the talk at the leadership or the government.

The meeting went on for nearly 30 minutes, during which 'Udayy spoke confidently despite the panic clearly visible on the faces of the numerous advisers around him and the bodyguards armed with machine guns. [passage omitted]

It seems that 'Udayy did not wish to broach political topics at this stage. However, when I arrived at the hotel, I found his press secretary waiting for me (I do not know how he managed to get there before me). He asked me to hand over the recording of the interview in order to edit it prior to publication. The tape was returned to me the following day with only the questions and answers about sport! and with the photographs taken during the interview with 'Udayy. 'Abbas al-Janabi, 'Udayy's press secretary, was extremely pleasant when he offered apologies, saying that the present circumstances demanded circumspection in press interviews. [passage omitted]

INA: 'Humiliating' U.S. Terms for Husayn Kamil

JN1809145695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1120 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (INA) — U.S. officials have told traitor Husayn Kamil that he should meet humiliating conditions so that he can assume power in Iraq. This came in a recent meeting between these officials and the defecting traitor.

The Cairo-based AL-SHA'B newspaper said in its 12 September issue that these conditions were contained in an official memorandum circulated during the meeting. The paper noted that Husayn Kamil expressed his readiness to submit to these conditions.

The newspaper explained that the conditions for treason through which Husayn Kamil wishes to reach power — conditions which decent Arabs will abstain even from hearing — are a serious precedent, given that no such conditions were stipulated to any traitor in the past. They include:

1. Iraq should support the policy of an Arab-Zionist settlement.

2. Iraq should declare the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity and exchange ambassadors.

3. Iraq should accept all proposed U.S. plans with regard to the so-called security cooperation in the Middle East.

4. Iraq should allow the United States to set up military bases on its territory — bases that will be an extension of U.S. bases already existing in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

5. Iraq should join the Gulf states in security arrangements to confront potential threats from neighboring countries.

6. Iraq should formally announce its approval of economic cooperation projects with the Zionist entity.

7. Iraq should accept U.S. supervision of the industrialization and modernization of the Iraqi Army and its military equipment.

These seven humiliating conditions, to which Husayn Kamil capitulated, reflect the extent to which the United States and the U.S. Administration are conspiring against Iraq to secure their own interests in the region and those of the Zionist entity. They also reflect the insistence of these elements in interfering in Iraq's internal affairs and running its policies so that they will become subject to their orders.

It is noteworthy that Husayn Kamil paid a secret, lightning visit to the Zionist entity three weeks ago. The details of the visit were revealed by the Egyptian press. During the visit he met with a number of Zionist officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Zionist Mosad.

Journalist Appointed Husayn Kamil Spokesman

JN1809141095 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
18 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that Iraqi defector General Husayn Kamil has appointed Iraqi journalist Sa'd al-Bazzaz as his spokesman and representative.

An informed source told AL-MAJD that al-Bazzaz will soon contact the Iraqi opposition forces abroad to bridge the gap between these forces and Husayn Kamil, who pledged to do his best to change the Iraqi regime.

Al-Bazzaz, who was chief editor of the Iraqi daily AL-JUMHURIYAH, took refuge in Jordan three years ago.

Journalist Denies Report

JN1909083495 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 19 Sep p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] An opposition journalist from a sisterly state has denied reports that he has become the official spokesman for a political-military figure, who was the focus of attention in the past few weeks.

Changes Said Apparent in Post-Defection Baghdad

MM1909132795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Muhammad Qadri Hasan: "Baghdad Looks for Bread Before Democracy; Many Criticized Husayn Kamil for Leaving Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad — Any journalist visiting Baghdad looks for many issues and topics — about Baghdad itself, the capital deserted by oil despite the fact that it is one of the oil capitals, and about the people of Baghdad, who are said to be starving as a result of the international blockade. A journalist also looks for answers to many questions, especially after the exit from Baghdad of Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan in the way he did and his defection to Jordan, a matter that has given rise to much speculation about the Iraqi regime and its survival.

A visit to Baghdad appears at first to be something quite ordinary because news about Iraq is published extensively abroad. What is not reported abroad can only be found out with difficulty. For instance, the media now have instructions to avoid publishing photographs of the Iraqi president, as the custom was, every morning on the front pages of all Iraqi papers. News about 'Udayy has also become ordinary and sometimes there are no reports about him, not in his own paper BABIL, not on the youth television channel, and not in the other papers. Is this a temporary change while waiting for the Husayn Kamil storm to pass or will it continue?

Informed people in Baghdad say: This is third time lucky, meaning that the change has imposed itself on the Iraqi president and everyone else in the government and the party. After the war with Iran there was an attempt to introduce change but that failed. After the invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent war there was another attempt by the authorities to introduce change but that also failed. Now, after the Husayn Kamil episode, the inclination to change is tipped to succeed — unless all this is meant to absorb the aftermath of the Husayn Kamil move, after which everything would revert to the status quo. The near future has the answer to that. But while awaiting the outcome, what about Baghdad and the people in it?

The first thing one notices is that the changes in Iraq are more noticeable on this visit, especially at the leadership level, after the defection to Jordan of Husayn Kamil, his brother Saddam Kamil, and their two wives, who are the daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. A visitor does not sense popular support for Gen. Husayn Kamil in the capital Baghdad, but it seems that the incident of his flight and defection — him being one of the people closest to the Iraqi president — has forced the Iraqi leadership to reconsider its internal, Arab, and international policy. The Iraqi papers no longer carry the picture of the "teacher," which is the title given to 'Udayy Saddam Husayn. Even when they report a sports item to indicate his presence at some function, they do so under the headline Olympic Committee chairman opens such and such a function but without mentioning his name, as if there are presidential instructions that he should not be mentioned except in connection with sports activities and without exaggeration or prominence. And the same applies to all members of Saddam's family such as his brothers and his cousins.

Many people in Iraq point out that, for the first time since the invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf War, Iraq is sending senior officials to the Arab states, especially the Moroccan Kingdom, Jordan, and Tunisia.

An Iraqi journalist talked about that matter. He wished to remain anonymous (all those I met with in Baghdad did not wish their names to be mentioned). I did not notice any objection by these journalists to their Iraqi leadership, but they are in turmoil and confused. On the one hand they want to see Iraq rescued from its present situation and, on the other, they fear that their views might be interpreted as taking sides against the state.

What that Iraqi journalist said was that what Iraq is going through is more serious than any Arab can imagine. The Kurds are ruling the north and the Shiite Muslims are ruling the south, which means that the partitioning of Iraq is a possibility and could occur in practice at any time, particularly if the economic blockade continues. He adds that that would not be in the interest of the Arab states because it would encourage interference in Arab affairs by states neighboring Iraq. He was referring to Turkey and Iran.

But the strangest thing is what I heard from Salah al-Mukhtar, chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH and former director of the information ministry, along with other lecturers at one of the study centers in Baghdad. He poured praise on Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at a seminar broadcast on the youth television channel headed by 'Udayy under the title "The Arab situation in the light of the new changes."

True, most of the comment focused on the position of the two presidents on the case of the defection of Gen. Husayn Kamil to Jordan, but the praise reached the point of describing President al- Asad as a man of principle, a description no Iraqi official had dared to use before. And the same thing applies to President Mubarak. That indeed denotes the depth of the change in the thinking of the Iraqi leadership since the defection of Gen. Kamil.

Another thing worth noting is the fact that the Iraqi leadership has made a point of announcing to the public that it is about to hold presidential elections. That was confirmed during this tour of Baghdad. The nomination of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for the presidency was announced, with the unanimous support of the Revolution Command Council and the National Assembly (the parliament elected in 1988). Wall slogans have begun to appear in Baghdad saying: The Iraqi people are Saddam Husayn and Saddam Husayn is the Iraqi people, in an apparent move to pave the way for a popular referendum which, according to government statements, will be held in the presence of tens of thousands of reporters from all over the world.

At a session with a number of officials, including some members of the ruling Ba'th Party, the question was asked about the secret of the Iraqi leadership's cool nerves vis-a-vis Jordan even after Gen. Husayn Kamil's defection there. One of them, who is more acquainted with the Iraqi leadership's policy, said: Brother, Jordan's is the only breathing lung Iraq has had since the end of the Gulf War and the beginning of the economic blockade. The United Nations has permitted the export of Iraqi oil only to Jordan and allowed the import of food and medical products via Jordan only and under its control. Reliance on foodstuffs smuggled in from Iran and Turkey is a contingency which could stop at any moment.

Jordan has been the only gate open to us since the blockade. Even where travel is concerned, our planes have been unable to take off for some time...and our ships have been idle in the ports of Umm Qasr and al-Basrah for years. The only road open to us is the road from Baghdad to Amman and from there to the various capitals of the world.

So would it be sensible for Iraq to close its only gate to the world?

That is why the visit to Baghdad of Jordanian Energy Minister Samih Darwazah, which was decided on before Gen. Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan and the postponement of which was announced by Amman, did recently taken place and the energy minister did indeed arrive in Baghdad. When a senior official at the Iraqi Oil Ministry was asked about the secret of the presence of the Jordanian minister despite the fact that Jordan had requested postponement of the visit, he emphasized that the Iraqi leadership had informed Jordan that Iraq wished to continue to supply Jordan with Iraqi oil and build a pipeline to supply Jordan with that oil, and even to form a joint oil company with Jordan.

The Iraqi official did not say whether the Iraqi desire to supply oil to Jordan was an attempt to challenge Kuwait's announcement of its willingness to supply Jordan with oil if the flow of Iraqi oil stopped, or was just a part of the exchange of mutual interests. He just said that Iraqi-Jordanian relations are historic relations not governed by vested interests and that Iraq recently informed Jordan that it was interested in the continuation of cooperation and in supplying Jordan with oil by means of tanker trucks or through the pipeline to be built, the entire cost of which, according to a responsible source at the Iraqi Oil Ministry, Iraq has promised to foot.

As regards Gen. Husayn Kamil, the Iraqis are full of what they heard from the official media. Many journalists, businessmen, and ordinary citizens agree that the general was wrong in his opposition and that he could have influenced the situation more by remaining in his position. They blame him for revealing Iraq's military secrets to the West and the United States in particular. One Iraqi journalist maintains that Husayn Kamil may have support or popularity within the Iraqi Armed Forces because he contributed to the formation of many units, especially the Republican Guard, but there is no sympathy for him among ordinary Iraqis. As for democracy, ordinary Iraqis are not interested in the subject at all. Husayn Khudayr, a bookshop owner in al-Muthanna street, answering a question about the issue of democracy, said: Brother, at present we cannot find bread. The democracy you talk about is an issue for people living in luxury. It is an issue which does not concern us in Iraq and it would not change our suffering under the blockade. Yet there have been some clear changes since Gen. Kamil's defection to Jordan. The Iraqi newspapers have stopped carrying the picture of President Saddam Husayn on their front pages which they used to do whether there was occasion to or not. Even when he chairs meetings of the Revolution Command Council, the press publishes photos of the council as a whole. In the past they used to carry his enlarged photo on the front pages of every edition.

The newspaper BABIL, which is published by 'Udayy and which still carries the caption "by mandate from the people," is even more strict about not publishing pictures of the Iraqi president.

English Daily Terms Quest for Democracy 'Genuine'

JN1809124595 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 18, INA—Following the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war, a smear campaign started in the West to discredit Iraq. Iraq, which was fighting for its life in the Iran-Iraq war, was accused of possessing and using chemical weapons, trying to possess nuclear weapons, and supporting Kurdish insurgency in the north [as received], as if what is required from Iraq is to allow Iran to occupy vast areas of its territories or impose on it a puppet regime allowing Iraq to be under the political influence of Iran, the Iraqi English language daily 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' said.

That media and political campaign accelerated to a full-scale war led by the U.S. to destroy the infrastructure of the country and pave the way for U.S. and Western companies to contracts with a devastated Iraq [as received]. Yet Iraq once again failed their attempts and rebuilt all that has been destroyed by their aggression by depending on its own potentials. This is thanks to the firm political will of the Iraqi leadership and its determination to eradicate the aftermath of that aggression.

Then, the enemies of Iraq subjected the country to an unprecedented inhuman economic embargo to subdue its people and force a political change within Iraq that would allow a return of U.S. and Western political influence so that the country's natural resources be exploited and depleted by these countries.

However, the Iraqi Government's approach to democracy would not be hampered by such delaying tactics on the part of Iraq's adversaries. Iraq's quest for democracy is a genuine one, but one that should evolve under normal circumstances that would pave the way for the formation of multi-party system by the creation of other political parties that are led by Iraqi dignitaries who are known for their independence and patriotism.

Those fugitive elements who are on the pay list of British and American intelligence services will not be allowed even to set foot in Iraqi soil once again because they are agents of foreign powers harboring ill intentions against Iraq. When Iraq was engaged in ferocious wars with Iran and the U.S.-led alliance, these fugitive elements allied themselves with the anti-Iraq camp.

Iraq can never allow other nations' experiments to occur in its political life, where foreign agents were enabled to assume [power] in their relevant countries in a pseudo democratic show. In these countries, the U.S. and the West used their propaganda machines and their financial support to enable their agents during the so-called general elections.

But to silence the malicious voices, Iraq will hold a national referendum to show the unyielding support of Iraqis to their leader President Saddam Husayn, who has become a symbol of bravery, steadfastness to all the oppressed people. This exercise of confidence is not a new phenomenon in Iraq. It was preceded by a similar practice during the Iran-Iraq war when Khomeyni claimed that Iraqis will vote their leadership out of office once they are given a chance to express their opinion. When Iraqis were called upon to pass their verdict, their decision was unanimous to support and rally behind the leadership of President Saddam Husayn until they scored their shining victory over Iran.

Talabani Sees Regime Overthrown, Elections Held

NC1809175695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Sep 95

[Report on telephone interview with PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani by unidentified Tehran radio Arabic service correspondent on 18 September; place not given—italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran radio's Arabic service conducted a telephone interview with brother Jalal Talabani, PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan], secretary general, this morning. His excellency discussed current conditions in Iraq and the despotic regime's future.

He began the interview by answering the question: How do you view the current conditions of the opposition and the Iraqi regime?

[Talabani] *I believe that the Iraqi opposition has three tiers. The first is the opposition found inside the regime, the army, and in the cities controlled by the regime. The second tier is the actual field opposition such as the Kurdish opposition, the Supreme Assembly of the Iraqi Revolution in Iraq, the al-Da'awah Party, and other groups operating inside the country. The third tier is the opposition abroad. I believe the effective opposition that can do something is the one operating inside the homeland and among the citizens. This opposition can mobilize the citizens and guide their struggles against the dictatorship.*

Tehran radio's Arabic service asked him: Mr. Talabani, this opposition blames the brothers in the northern part of the homeland because they did not provide sufficient opportunities for movement from the Kurdish region to Baghdad and other Iraqi areas? What is your answer?

[Talabani] *I challenge any other Iraqi force to do as much as the PUK [words indistinct]. Convey these words from me to all other groups: I asked all other parties to come and operate inside the homeland.*

He was also asked: According to your expectations, do you envisage the Iraqi regime's overthrow within a reasonable period of time?

[Talabani] *I am not a fortune teller. Nevertheless, I believe that the regime is shaky and I do not rule out its total overthrow sometime this year.*

Tehran radio's Arabic service correspondent asked him: Mr. Jalal Talabani, some people say that during the first Dublin conference, the Americans proposed a three-way partition of Iraq, namely, into a Kurdish area, the Shiite south, and the Arab Sunni part. Some people are advocating this idea. What are the PUK's views on this issue?

[Talabani] *We did not really hear any such proposal from the Americans or any other party. We believe that the Iraqi people must decide by themselves the form of the next governmental system in Iraq, after they free themselves from the dictatorship. They must hold free elections to elect a constituent council to decide the form of (?government) and whatever suits the Iraqi people.*

[Correspondent] *Thank you Mr. Jalal Talabani for giving this opportunity to our News and Report Program.*

[Talabani] *Thanks to you.*

PKK Reportedly Sets Fires to UN Vehicles

TA1509191895 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Clashes between Barzani's forces and PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] terrorists are continuing in northern Iraq.

Barzani's forces asked UN officials for permission to search for PKK terrorists in refugee camps near Atrush. After the searches in two camps were completed, the refugees sought to prevent a search of the third camp by taking three relief workers, two of them UN officials, hostage. Barzani forces are continuing their siege of the camp.

PKK terrorists blocked the Zakho-Dahuk road yesterday evening. Barzani's forces reported that 10 PKK terrorists were killed in the ensuing clashes.

The PKK terrorists also set fire to three vehicles, two of them belonging to the United Nations, near Zakho yesterday and kidnapped the drivers. In addition, the PKK terrorists killed a professor who was a Barzani supporter near the Salah-al-Din township by firing a volley.

Hitch in Kurdish Talks; Negotiators' React

LD1509143295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dublin, 15 Sep (KUNA) — The Dublin talks between the two main Kurdish parties faltered today following their failure to reach an agreement on fundamental issues, such as the demilitarization of Irbil and collection of customs revenues from tankers taking Iraqi oil across the north to Turkey.

Sources at the Dublin conference, sponsored by the United States, told the KUNA that the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP, led by Mas'ud Barzani] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK, led by Jalal Talabani] had previously demonstrated the ability to work together, and that it is not impossible for them to overcome their current differences.

The sources expressed their belief that the attacks launched by the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] in northern Iraq over the last few days have greatly complicated the situation.

In another development, Nawsherwan Amin, head of the PUK delegation, told KUNA that his party has not changed its position, insisting that the customs revenues should be transferred directly to the regional government in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The oil [as received] revenues are so far being collected by the KDP.

Nawsherwan Amin said that his party also stressed that the demilitarization of Irbil, which is under the control of the PUK forces, can be achieved by pulling out all the heavy and medium weapons from Salah al-Din [Barzani's headquarters], which is 25 km east of Irbil.

Observers have noted that PUK leader Jalal Talabani and his counterpart in the KDP, Mas'ud Barzani, were due to sign a comprehensive peace agreement on 25 September either in Europe or the United States. Today's complications, however, have plunged the whole process into a state of chaos and ambiguity.

The two sides held separate meetings today with Robert Deutsch, the U.S. mediator, in an effort to find a solution to the problems which emerged at the last moment.

'Doubt' Cast on Kurdish Peace Accord Talks

MM1509134095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Kurdish Talks in Dublin Facing Difficulties"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Iraqi Kurdish sources in London yesterday cast doubt on the possibility of the representatives of the two major Kurdish parties in northern Iraq, led by Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, reaching a peace agreement today, which marks the conclusion of the second round of talks between the two delegations, which began last Tuesday in the Irish capital Dublin. Meanwhile, the United Nations has confirmed that two of its employees have been abducted by Turkish Kurds in northern Iraq.

The Kurdish sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that by yesterday morning the two delegations had still not agreed on the first item on their agenda concerning removing weapons from Irbil, capital of the Iraqi Kurdish region controlled by militias of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] (led by Talabani) since the beginning of this year. The sources expect the talks to be extended "by at least one day, unless an agreement on Irbil was reached later yesterday. [no closing quotemarks as published]

The agenda of the Kurdish talks includes three main items: Removing weapons from Irbil and depositing the Iraqi Kurdish region's revenues into the local government's accounts under the supervision of a neutral committee to consist of elements of the (opposition) Iraqi National Congress and possibly others. This committee is the subject of the third item on the agenda and will also be responsible for supervising the implementation of the agreement the Dublin talks are supposed to produce.

The Kurdish sources explained that members of the two delegations are accusing each other of coming to the second round of the Dublin talks "with a hard-line position on the Irbil issue" compared to their position in the first phase of the talks, held last month in the Irish capital. The sources quote PUK members as saying that the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] is demanding a total withdrawal of PUK forces from Irbil and its environs in return for allowing only one of the five gateways into the city to remain in the hands of the PUK, which is demanding two gateways. Members of KDP delegation, according to these sources, are accusing the PUK of "trying to minimize and weaken the presence of the KDP in the areas adjacent to Irbil such as Salah al-Din and Shaqlawah, as the price for a withdrawal from Irbil."

Officials of both parties have refused to give any details on the Dublin talks' progress, and the differences in the two delegations' positions and viewpoints. Independent Kurdish sources, however, have confirmed that failure to reach an agreement on Irbil means that a comprehensive agreement cannot be reached, and quoted members of the KDP delegation as saying that they "will not accept to move on to discussing item two on the agenda (concerning revenues) until the Irbil issue is resolved." [passage omitted]

Radio Commentary on Need To Continue Dialogue

NC1709171695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are not at all mistaken to say that achieving peace, security, and stability in any place in the world is much more difficult than igniting a war in it. Firing a single bullet may trigger a vicious, destructive war, but ending a war may need immense efforts and serious endeavors. Sometimes the process of peacemaking takes longer than the period of war and fighting.

The achievement of peace in Iraq's Kurdistan, which has been witnessing regrettable internal fighting since 1 April 1994, can be viewed from this perspective. The fighting went through tough and complicated stages, causing heavy human losses on both sides and squandering huge amounts of money which should have been directed toward reconstructing Kurdistan and alleviating the suffering of the Kurds, who are experiencing difficult living conditions.

Undoubtedly, the longer the fighting lasts and the wider the area it involves, the longer it takes and the harder the work it requires to end it. Failure of the two sides to draft a final and comprehensive agreement in the second stage of negotiations in Dublin does not at all mean that everything is now over, that the doors are now closed to dialogue, or that the negotiations will stop at this point. The pending problems between the two sides are complicated, and they need further constructive dialogue. Although a date for the next meeting has not been set, it is expected to take place next month.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] proposed that Irbil and Salah-al-Din be disarmed and that the fees collected at the Ibrahim al-Khalil customs point be returned to the treasury of the regional government. But the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] insisted on disarming Irbil only and avoided the issue of the revenues. An official PUK source announced that the PUK will make efforts to contain problems, narrow the gap of differences, and find the necessary ways to bring about a just peace in Kurdistan.

(Robert Leach), director of the Northern Gulf Affairs office at the U.S. State Department, announced that the U.S. initiative will continue and said he was not disappointed at the results of the talks. He said the two parties to the conflict promised to abide by the cease-fire agreement. This means a chance for peace still exists, and we have great hope that the two sides will return to the negotiating table and place the interests of the people of Kurdistan and their democratic experience above all party interests. It is through dialogue, and only dialogue, that the shore of safety can be reached.

Paper: PUK Will Remain Flexible in Talks

NC1809184295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Sep 95

[Editorial published by the daily KURDISTAN WAY, voice of the PUK; date not given: "Although the Dublin Talks Have Ended Without Results, the Will To Make Peace Remains Strong" — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Dublin talks between the PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan], and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] ended on 15 September without results. Like earlier talks, the Dublin talks failed to overcome the narrow partisan outlook, serve the interests of the people, or secure Kurdish peace and amity.

The Kurdistani masses and other parties have been following the news and results of the Dublin talks with eagerness and concern. All segments of the public—students, professors, intellectuals, peasants, workers, and craftsmen—pinned hope on the results of the Dublin negotiations. On the other side, the people's enemies stalked the talks and rejoiced at their fruitless results.

Our people, exhausted by domestic strife, viewed the peace mediators who presented plans to end the infighting in Kurdistan as angels of mercy. They did not pay particular attention to the identities of the mediators: Were they Muslims or People of the Book? Had they come to further their own interests or serve the Kurdish people's interests?

The PUK and the masses of Kurdistan accepted all the mediation efforts, whether they were domestic, French, Iranian, or U.S. The PUK was responsive to all mediation, refusing only the mediation of the despotic Baghdad regime, which harbors only evil intentions toward the Kurdish people.

It is regrettable that all the good efforts made to end the infighting in Kurdistan have failed. After every such mediation, the fighting flares up more intensely. This frightened the Kurds who followed the news of the Dublin talks with caution, fearing that their failure would ignite a new round of destructive civil strife. At the same time the Kurds were watching the conspiracies behind the scenes trying to ensure that the talks failed. They heard the discordant voices that spoke disparagingly of the talks.

The PUK, aware of the conspiracies, resolved to show flexibility during the talks and avoid placing obstacles in their path. It showed the greatest possible amount of flexibility to settle the Irbil question and other issues that had constituted hurdles on the way toward peace.

The problem of revenues in Kurdistan, particularly the revenues of the Ibrahim al-Khalil customs point, remained unsolved. The Kurdish public has failed to solve this riddle. Complexities, obstacles, and insurmountable problems again became entanglements.

The PUK is not demanding the return of the Ibrahim al-Khalil revenues to take them for itself. It is demanding them back on a legal basis and for the good of the people and the government of the Kurdistan region. It wants the revenues back to pay salaries and pensions, finance educational services, revive the local markets, combat unemployment, provide health services, maintain roads, means of transport, public utilities, pay for reconstruction and development projects, develop cultural activities, and finance the various necessities of the Kurdish community.

Just as revenues in any other state are spent on the services mentioned above, the same must apply to Kurdistan.

Despite the failure of the second round of Dublin talks, the PUK is still ready to respond to any domestic or foreign efforts to return the revenues of Kurdistan to the treasury of the government of the region of Kurdistan. The PUK hopes that the current failure of the talks will not end the Kurdish people's hopes or close the door to further negotiation.

We are confident that if we confront the violations that can reignite the war and maintain the unity of Kurdish ranks, this will provide a guarantee for the future success of any further efforts to bring peace to Kurdistan and renounce war and destruction. In this way the people's wishes will triumph.

It seems that current events in Iraq, and events expected to occur soon, are important factors toward settling the existing problems.

Right-Wing Parties on 'Emerging' Taba Agreement

TA1909085595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset is scheduled to meet in a special session tomorrow during its recess, and the right-wing parties will focus on the emerging agreement in Taba in the debate.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Likud is demanding that the government put all the details of the agreement on the Knesset table and that it not sign until the murderous terrorists are extradited to Israel.

The National Religious Party says that the emerging agreement is yet another expression of capitulation and weakness, especially in the security sphere.

Tzomet says that the Taba agreement will lead to the killing of Jews, while Moledet is demanding that Rabin recall Peres to Jerusalem at once because he cannot withstand pressure from 'Arafat.

IRNA: Rabin Criticizes Russia on Nuclear Plant

LD1609100395 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Sep 16 (IRNA) — The head of the Zionist regime Yitzhaq Rabin, just back from a 3-day visit to the Ukraine and Russia, expressed disappointment at Russian policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, according to a dispatch from al-Qods Friday [15 September].

Speaking after a meeting with the Israeli negotiating team with the Palestinians, Rabin said the Russians were having a different perception on Iran that didn't conform with the Israeli position.

He was referring to the Russian Government's refusal to reconsider the proposed sale to Iran of nuclear reactors that would be used for peaceful purposes.

Rabin alleged that the Russians didn't realize what he termed "Iran's dangerous intentions," saying that the Zionist state would continue to warn the international community of "Iran's plans to develop nuclear weapons." Israel possesses a huge nuclear arsenal with delivery systems capable of hitting countries in the Middle East.

Medical Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia

TA1909084795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Judy Siegel]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel and Russia yesterday signed a medical cooperation agreement which will allow the exchange of information and medical specialists as well as joint projects in medical administration.

The accord was signed in Jerusalem by Russian health minister Eduard Nechayev, one of 25 health ministers and delegates from a total of 50 countries attending the 45th annual meeting of the European section of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Nechayev expressed much interest in the implementation of the new national health insurance system and asked how Israel copes with the rising costs of pharmaceuticals. Health Minister Efrayim Sne agreed to send experts in communicable diseases to Russia when his counterpart asked for help in combating measles and tetanus.

WHO Director-General Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima said his organization was able to meet in Jerusalem because it was a regional meeting. The UN does not currently allow full international meetings to be held here. But the Japanese-born physician said he hopes this policy will change with the coming of peace to the region. [passage omitted]

PRC Deputy Chief of Staff Pays 5-Day Visit

TA1709100495 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Aharon Klein]

[FBIS Translated Text] Wu Qawasiu [name as transliterated], deputy chief of staff of the PRC People's Liberation Army, is currently in Israel on a five-day visit. This is the first visit to Israel by a PRC deputy chief of staff.

The visit started on 14 September, and Wu has since toured IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases in Judaea and Samaria and will visit defense industry plants, including Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI].

According to foreign reports, Israel and China are jointly producing an upgraded fighter plane based on technologies developed for the Lavi. The reports say that work on the plane has been going on for several years, during which IAI representatives in China have been cooperating with the local industries.

The PRC deputy chief of staff held a brief meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, and with Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri. He is the guest of Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq.

The visit has been kept secret so far. No official announcement was made before or upon the PRC deputy chief of staff's arrival. The PRC chief of staff paid a similar visit to Israel in the past.

Rabin Receives Mandela Invitation To Visit

TA1509180495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South African President Nelson Mandela has officially invited Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to visit his country. The invitation was relayed this morning during the prime minister's meeting with South Africa's Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo.

Prime Minister Rabin noted that even though South Africa supports the peace process, it maintains commercial links with Iran, a country that threatens the stability of the entire Middle East.

Poll Gauges Popularity of Top Political Figures

TA1609143295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 15 September airs a special 100- minute newsreel summing up the main highlights of the past year (based on the Jewish calender).

The program includes a public opinion poll conducted by Dr. Mina Tzemah of the Dahaf Institute, which posed the following questions to a "representative sample" of Jewish and Arab interviewees:

Question: "What public figure do you consider to be man of the year?"

Answer: Yitzhaq Rabin — 19 percent; Shim'on Peres — 16 percent; Binyamin Netanyahu — 8 percent; 'Ezer Weizman — 4 percent; Hayim Ramon — 2 percent.

Question: "What public figure disappointed you the most?"

Answer: Rabin — 30 percent; Netanyahu — 10 percent; Peres — 5 percent; David Levi — 5 percent; Refa'el Eytan — 2 percent.

Question: "Who do you consider the most decent politician in Israel?"

Answer: Peres — 17 percent; Rabin — 12 percent; Netanyahu — 9 percent; Yosi Sarid — 5 percent; there is no such thing — 9 percent.

Question: "What public figure in Israel do you find the least worthy of your respect?"

Answer: Netanyahu — 18 percent; Rabin — 15 percent; Peres — 7 percent; Shulamit Aloni — 4 percent; Sarid — 4 percent; Ari'el Sharon — 4 percent.

Question: "If the Knesset elections were held today, would you vote for the same party or for some other party?"

Answer: vote for the same party — 52 percent; vote for a more right-wing party — 14 percent; vote for a more left-wing party — 4 percent; vote for a different party, but still do not know which — 11 percent; did not vote in the last elections — 15 percent.

Minister's 'Positive Remarks' on Iraq Criticized

JN1809124995 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 20 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Energy Minister Samih Darwazah's statements in Baghdad that relations between Amman and Baghdad are positive and that what happened was only a summer cloud have aroused the resentment of a number of government officials in Jordan as well as the concern of the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

AL-HADATH has learned that Darwazah's statements implied that Jordan went back on what His Majesty King Husayn said in his speech when he spoke in favor of a change in Iraq and rapprochement with the Gulf states, explaining the real Jordanian position on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

A senior minister told AL-HADATH: We made it clear to the Americans, Saudis, and Kuwaitis that there is no change in the Jordanian position as stated in the king's speech and that Darwazah's positive remarks on ties with Baghdad reflect his personal point of view, especially since he went to Baghdad on a technical and not a political mission.

The minister added: We have explained to the concerned parties that any oil or other projects between Jordan and Iraq will be on the level of states, not governments or organizations. The proposed projects are only on paper and can only be implemented after the economic sanctions on Iraq are lifted.

Al-Kabariti on Iraq, Japanese Prime Minister's Visit

JN1809155495 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Sep 95 p 27

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stated that any talk about democracy, freedom, pluralism, and Arab legitimacy should not considered as interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. He added: I do not know why a misunderstanding has to arise whenever the subject concerns Iraq. The fingers of blame are pointed only when such views are articulated by Jordan.

In statements to AL-RA'Y the foreign minister added: We cannot understand why others are allowed to voice their views and stances without being blamed, but when Jordan does so, it is considered to be interference in others' domestic affairs.

Minister al-Kabariti said: Jordan does not view its latest stands as interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. When pan-Arab security and Arab existence are threatened, we believe that it is our right to express our views about it.

Minister al-Kabariti said: Some have tried to misrepresent the reality of the Jordanian efforts, the aim of which is to end the suffering of the Iraqi people. Those efforts have been depicted as interference in others' domestic affairs. This a rejected attempt to confiscate Jordan's decisionmaking and to prevent Jordan from playing a basic and pivotal role in the effort to build a unified Arab position and revive Arab solidarity.

In response to a question on whether a comprehensive peace in the region can be achieved without Iraq, the foreign minister said: A comprehensive peace must include all states of the region, of which Iraq is an important part. We have said more than once that we wish and seek to enable Iraq to play its natural role in its Arab and regional surroundings. At the same time, we hope that the expected Syrian-Israeli talks will be part of the effort that is being exerted to generalize peace in the region.

The minister said: I am confident that peace is still Syria's strategic option. Syria is still part of the peace process which started in Madrid. The existing differences between Syria and Israel are technical matters that have nothing to do with substantive issues. We hope that the U.S. broker will be able to overcome all obstacles and arrive at a Syrian-Israeli agreement that will open the way for other states of the region to join peace so that a just, comprehensive peace will be realized.

On the Japanese prime minister's visit to Amman today, Minister al-Kabariti said he hoped that the Japanese prime minister's visit will provide him with a chance to acquire firsthand information and explore the situation in the Middle East so that he will be able to convey his impressions to the Japanese decisionmakers as a whole. He said this will provide Japan with the opportunity to play a stronger, more effective role in this region.

The foreign minister said that Japan has an important role to play in the region, a role that can go beyond the economic aspect to political dimensions.

The foreign minister said that Japan, which has not played any major or basic role in the region, seems to have a new orientation toward playing a fundamental, pivotal role in the building of a new Middle East. This role is based on participation in the peace process and in the development process, he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Murayama Arrives in Amman

Welcomed by Bin-Shakir at Airport

JN1809150595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama arrived in Amman this afternoon leading a delegation on a brief visit to Jordan, during which, he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn. He was received at Queen Alia International Airport by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. [passage omitted]

Murayama's visit to the kingdom comes within a tour which took him to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, and Israel with the aim of strengthening ties between Japan and these countries and discussing the latest developments in the peace process and the aid which Japan will offer in support of this process.

Discusses Peace Developments With King

JN1809171195 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who arrived in Amman earlier in the day. They held a closed meeting and were later joined by aides. The talks dealt with latest developments of Middle East peace-making and overall regional development.

Mr. Murayama commended Japanese-Jordanian ties and emphasized Jordan's role as a key player underpinning Middle East peace and stability. The Japanese premier also paid tribute to the wisdom of his majesty in overcoming obstacles to the peace process. Mr. Murayama said Tokyo is interested in the peace process and will back Jordan's efforts toward attaining a comprehensive and permanent peace that will enable the region to develop. He said Jordan is a model for economic and social development, and declared that Japan will seek support for regional economic development projects, particularly in the areas of tourism and environment.

Mr. Murayama also said his government will attend the Amman Middle East and North Africa economic summit and encourage Japanese businessmen to participate in the conference, which will be held late next month.

His majesty and Mr. Murayama also touched on bilateral ties and a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim, and the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, planning, industry and trade as well as Japanese officials.

The Japanese prime minister arrived in Amman earlier in the day as part of a Middle East tour aimed at consolidating Japan's ties with the region and discussing the peace process and Tokyo's aid to the countries of the region.

Pledges Economic Support

JN1809201595 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 18 Sep 95

[Statement by Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama at a news conference in Amman on 18 September; from the "News at Ten" program—recorded, in Japanese with superimposed English translation]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] I believe that Amman economic summit is of a great economic importance. The Amman economic summit, I believe, will be of great significance for the development of this region. I cannot specifically mention who will be sent. We would like to realize the highest possible level of participation by the Japanese Government. At the same time, I would like to encourage as much as possible participation by the Japanese business sector.

Well, I had the honor of meeting with His Majesty King Husayn today. I said that I highly appreciate the fact that Jordan, as a party to the Middle East peace process, has addressed that process very actively and has been making very important contributions. And also from the viewpoint of realizing the peace and dividend, Japan should like to continue and further strengthen Japan's political as well as economic support and assistance for Jordan.

With regard to that point about 500 million thousands, especially in view of the importance of currency stability, I will study what kind of assistance will be needed if an international agreement can be achieved centering on IMF [International Monetary Fund] in response to Jordanian request for assistance. I mentioned that we are considering possibility of providing financing up to $200 million.

Concludes Visit

JN1809204095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama left Amman for Japan today. He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. [passage omitted]

French Foreign Minister de Charette Arrives

Received by al-Kabariti

JN1809182995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan. The guest French minister was received by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Jordanian Ambassador to France al-Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, and the French ambassador in Amman.

In his official talks with Jordanian officials the French foreign minister will complement the meetings he held in Cairo with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. [passage omitted]

Makes Statement on Arrival

JN1909060495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and his delegation arrived in Amman this evening on an official two-day visit to Jordan. The French minister was received at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

In statements to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the French minister said: I am very pleased and honored to visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and I am also pleased with the good relations between France and Jordan, especially since this is my first visit to the Middle East.

He added that he will hold talks with Jordanian officials on ties between France and Jordan and will discuss the signing of bilateral agreements between the two friendly countries, as well as the Middle East peace process.

Asked about the Amman economic summit, the French minister said this summit is an important and major event. He added that France will effectively participate in the summit and will be represented by the ministers of industry and foreign trade.

He added: In my talks with His Majesty King Husayn, I will discuss the issue of Iraq and other issues of concern to the region. [passage omitted]

Received by King Husayn

JN1909063695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king has received French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette. During the meeting, his majesty the king reviewed with the French foreign minister bilateral relations and means to enhance them in all fields. He also discussed with the French foreign minister regional and international issues of mutual concern. During the meeting, Mr. de Charette asserted his country's support to all efforts exerted to achieve a comprehensive and permanent peace in the region.

His majesty the king presented the French foreign minister with the Jordanian first class al-Kawkab Medal. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and the French ambassador in Amman.

King Confers With Iranian Ambassador on Ties

JN1709190595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchian at the Royal Court today. They discussed relations between Jordan and Iran and ways of enhancing them in all fields.

Plane Lands in Ireland After Bomb Hoax

JN1609091395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Munib Tuqan, deputy director general of Royal Jordanian Airlines, has told AL-DUSTUR that a Royal Jordanian passenger plane on a scheduled flight from Amsterdam to New York last night made an emergency landing in Shannon Airport in Ireland after its captain received a warning that there is a bomb on board.

He added that the plane landed safely at the airport and that its 250 passengers were transferred to the airport terminal and were later secured at a hotel, noting that all of them are doing fine. He said that the plane was placed at the disposal of the Irish police, who began a thorough search operation and announced at later last night that there was no bomb inside the plane.

Tuqan said that a person who spoke in a Dutch dialect warned the authorities in Amsterdam Airport of the presence of the alleged bomb. Tuqan added that Dutch security authorities were able to identify that person through the airport's surveillance cameras. They believe he is a demented individual, and are conducting an extensive operation in search of him.

Israelis Blamed for Not Nurturing Peace in Hebron

JN1609135795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Sep 95 p 6

[Commentary by Dr. Musa Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The repeated attacks by settlers on a Palestinian school in Hebron and the confrontations between the residents of the town and settlers—with Israeli soldiers thrown in for good measure—are symptomatic of the way Israelis have come to regard the West Bank in 28 years of occupation. Throughout the period, they have been taught that the West Bank is part of the "promised land" that should be controlled, no matter what, by Jews. That perhaps explains the anger of the Hebron settlers towards Palestinians who raise the Palestinian flag in the city that settlers see as the bastion of Jewish nationalism. But the actual blame for the root cause of the problem in Hebron, as elsewhere in the West Bank, should be laid squarely at the door of Israeli politicians who have, over the years, done everything to assure the settlers that their presence in the West Bank would be eternal.

Today, the same political leaders who have led the colonisation of the West Bank since 1967 are trying to tell the settlers the territory might not be part of the "promised land" after all and they may have to quit the area. Seen against that background, the settlers' resistance to the idea of moving out of Hebron, the only Palestinian town where settlers live amidst Palestinians, is understandable. However, one fails to see how a solution could be reached to overcome the logjam in Israeli-Palestinian autonomy negotiations without a formula that leads to the eventual removal of the Kiryat Arba settlers, who are among the most militant in Israeli society.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stand out among Israeli leaders who point to the absurdity of letting 400 settlers hold hostage the entire Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, simply by their presence in Hebron among 120,000 Palestinians. But we have seen little of practical action by the Israeli leaders to break the deadlock.

Given that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres have electoral politics to take into consideration next year, we may not see any action at all.

That leaves the problem very much on the ground, exposing one of the key flaws—or shortcomings—in the Rabin government's approach to convincing Israelis of the need to make peace with Palestinians. We have yet to hear any Israeli leader affirming in public that the West Bank and Gaza do not belong to Israelis or that the territories are stolen lands that have to be returned to their rightful owners. What we are hearing instead is a loud proclamation of the need to ensure the "security and safety" of the Jewish settlements that have become part of the landmark in the West Bank, rather than hearing of the logic of returning the occupied territories as the pillar of any peace agreement with the Palestinians. Quite simply, the Rabin government and the dominant Labour Party have done very little to nurture a culture of peace among Israelis.

Indeed, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres are pussy footing around the real issue at stake by trying to reveal to the Palestinians as little as possible of their real intentions about and expectations from the peace negotiations. That may or may not be a sound negotiating strategy, but it is the same ambiguity that is encouraging the settlers to continue their arrogant and violent behaviour against the Palestinians. It is not too late now for Mr. Rabin and others to confront their people and attempt to convince them of the need to understand the reality of the situation and accept that the West Bank is Palestinian and should be returned to the Palestinians regardless of what the Israeli society has been led to believe for decades.

Prime Minister Gives Address on Public Liberties

JN1709200595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A royal decree has been issued adjourning the Parliament's extraordinary session as of 19 September.

The House of Representatives held the last meeting of this extraordinary session today under Speaker Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur in the presence of His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and ministers.

During today's meeting, the House discussed a report submitted by the Public Liberties and Citizens' Rights Committee [PLCRC]. Details on this meeting are reported by Muhammad al-Tarawinah, our correspondent for parliamentary affairs:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [al-Tarawinah] The major agenda topic in today's meeting was the decision by the PLCRC, which was read out by its rapporteur, deputy Bassam Haddadin, on the request for debate, which the House of Representatives referred to the PLCRC, to discuss the issue of public liberties and citizens' rights.

The PLCRC explained that it met with many officials and discussed with them the issues of passports, arrests, public meetings, the al- Zarqa' Municipality elections, and other issues. Some 23 deputies talked about this topic. They pointed to the need to consolidate the democratic march, which is a strategic option for Jordan's leadership and people, as well as to resort to law when there is a dispute over any matter of public interest.

In his reply to the remarks made by deputies, His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir said cooperation between the legislative and executive branches is one of the major guarantees for safeguarding citizens' freedoms and rights. His excellency pointed out that the ceiling of public liberties in Jordan is continuously going higher.

[Bin-Shakir] The ceiling of liberties is continuously going higher. One who reads newspapers can acquaint himself with the other opinion. This opinion frequently exceeds the limits of law and public interest, thus inadvertently harming our relations with the brothers while calling for improving them. This other opinion also portrays the homeland as a fertile ground for criminals and thieves, God forbid.

A passport is a natural right for every citizen who holds Jordanian nationality, so it is impermissible to deny him this nationality. It is also impermissible to withdraw his passport without a legal justification.

The aggrieved citizen should resort to the court. Raising the issue on every occasion and on all forums, will lead, God forbid, to weakness in the society and incoherence in the country's structure, even if the speaker does not mean harm, given that it concerns one sector in the one Jordanian society.

We hope that all those aggrieved persons who were denied a passport and those whose passports have been withdrawn submit a complaint to the Control and Inspection Commission and we hope they will be given an answer within the shortest possible time. If they are not convinced by this answer, they could resort to the law by whose ruling we will abide.

This country has always opened its doors for every Arab and Muslim. It opened its doors for our brothers in religion from the Caucasus, from the fighters of the Great Arab Revolt everywhere, and from the brothers in blood and fate west of the River [Jordan]. All these melted in a crucible of unity which has been the purest unity in modern times. It behooves all of us to maintain our love for such a homeland, strengthen our affiliations with it, and defend it against all suspicions at a time when the Arab citizen is repressed, oppressed, and expelled in other Arab regions.

This country is strong by its sons, by its national unity, its leadership, and the cooperation among its ruling authorities. It will remain the land of all the Arabs, with God's help. [end recording]

Further on Session on Public Liberties

JN1809090295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Sep 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Tariq al-Mumani and a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A Lower House of Parliament Committee Sunday [17 September] accused the executive authority of suppressing public freedoms and violating the rights of citizens but the government strongly rejected the charges and stressed that it remains committed to democracy.

The Public Freedoms and Citizens Rights Committee accused the government of withdrawing citizens' five-year passports and replacing them with two-year passports as well as making arbitrary arrests and banning public meetings.

The charges were made in a report that the committee submitted to the House Sunday during its last meeting of the extraordinary session which started in June with a heavy load of its legislation on its agenda.

"The state of polarisation in society after the signing of the peace treaty and the accompanying stressful situation have affected the ceiling of public freedoms," charged the report.

But Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir rejected the charges, adding that the report gives the wrong impression about the situation in the Kingdom.

"The government does not agree with the allegations that the ceiling of public freedoms has shrunk," al-Sharif Zayd said after 23 deputies took the floor to comment on the committee's 10-page report.

"In fact, the ceiling of public freedoms has been witnessing further heights and one look at local press is enough to realise that the freedom of expression sometimes exceeds the limits of the law," al-Sharif Zayd said.

Members of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) parliamentary bloc launched the strongest attack at the government, accusing it of unlawfully withdrawing the citizenship of Jordanians from Palestinian origin.

Bassam Haddadin, rapporteur of the Public Freedoms Committee, urged the government to abide by the law and to act "wisely" in dealing with the issue of citizenship.

IAF member Ahmad al-Kassassbah said the alleged withdrawal of citizens' passports reflects an abuse of the legal implication of the 1988 decision to sever links with the West Bank.

But al-Sharif Zayd said any citizen who feels he has been done injustice in this regard can resort to court.

"Nationality is a sensitive subject and the government refuses to see this question subjected to debate because every citizen has a constitutional right. The constitution and laws protect these rights," said al-Sharif Zayd.

"Any person who feels he has been done injustice should resort to the Inspection and Control Bureau and if he is unsatisfied (with its handling of the tissue) he should resort to court," prime minister told lawmakers.

But to go on making accusations, said al-Sharif Zayd will only harm national unity and creat disturbances in society.

The committee, whose report was read out at the house by leftist deputy Haddadin, said that the government should not make any arrests without obtaining a warrant from the prosecutor general.

IAF deputy Hammam Sa'id called for the release of detainees he claimed are in Jordanian jails while his colleague 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant urged opposition deputies to resign from Parliament in protest against the government's alleged violations of the law.

Al-Sharif Zayd said he has issued instruction which will guarantee that no citizen is arrested before obtaining permission form the persecutor general.

But responding to criticism by the committee's reports and opposition deputies about the government's banning of public meetings, al-Sharif Zayd said the government bans only meetings which "violate the law and harm national security."

The committee's report also urged the government to ensure the neutrality of its departments in public elections and to make sure that the security apparatus does not violate the human rights of citizens.

Those responsible for human rights violations should be held accountable in accordance with the law, the opposition deputies demanded.

But centrist deputies stood by the government in arguing that illegal acts should be stopped and violators of the law should be stopped from harming the country and its interests.

Those deputies said that democracy "should not be exploited to achieve illegal objectives" adding that all citizens enjoy freedoms within the limits of the law.

The centrist deputies said there were some "insignificant" excesses in the governments acts but contended that these acts do not threaten democracy and praise the security forces for protecting the interests of the Kingdom.

Sunday's session witnessed the strongest confrontation between the government and the opposition deputies in the extraordinary session during which the House passed the controversial legislation ending the economic and trade boycott of Israel. Law makers also endorsed a new investment and income tax laws that are geared at making the economic reforms necessary to create a more favourable investment environment in the Kingdom.

The House should reconvene in an ordinary session in October but observers expect the session to be postponed for a period of two months.

Minister Dallul Rejects Settlement of Palestinians

NC1809211295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1930 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has expressed his hopes that the scope of cooperation with Egypt will expand in the field of military training and education. He said we are trying to train the largest number of Lebanese officers possible in Egyptian military colleges.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM to be published in its Tuesday, 19 September issue, Dallul clarified that Lebanon has succeeded in uniting its army after the end of the civil war. The army has now become an army for all Lebanese, no longer divided among various sects and denominations as it was in the past.

The Lebanese defense minister called on the United Nations to take action to implement the UN resolutions on Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He pointed out that the United Nations has been changed into a U.S. institution managed by the U.S. delegate whichever way it wants.

Muhsin Dallul blamed the Arab countries for ignoring the repeated Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon despite the presence of a joint defense pact among Arab countries. He clarified that Arab countries have stopped offering any kind of military or nonmilitary aid to Lebanon and that the support fund, whose formation was stipulated by the al-Ta'if agreement, does not exist anymore.

On the progress of negotiations with Israel, the Lebanese defense minister affirmed that agreement has been reached with Syria to have the Syrian and Lebanese negotiations with Israel proceed along one track in order to reach a just and comprehensive peace.

He said: We either go together to sign an agreement that preserves our rights and secures our national and pan-Arab interests, or we reject the agreement together.

He added that with regard to the progress of the negotiations, Israel has previously approved numerous specific points in the military meetings that were held in Washington and then backed down from them. He added that we are not ready to enter into vague labyrinths with Israel or to agree over bare headlines which Israel will later use to blackmail us. Therefore, we would like to reach a comprehensive agreement based on justice and real peace, not on plays on words and headlines.

Regarding the issue of settling some Palestinians in Lebanon, Muhsin Dallul said that he categorically rejects such settlement, particularly since Lebanon's geographic area is very small. He clarified that Lebanon accepted the presence of the Palestinians at the beginning on a temporary basis until they returned to their country.

The Lebanese defense minister affirmed that settlement is not suitable for the Palestinians because it means they would have to abandon their legitimate rights to their homeland and be turned into communities in other countries. We consider the settlement of the Palestinians a conspiracy against their rights.

On the issue of amending the Lebanese Constitution to extend the period of the Lebanese presidency and to allow the army commander and employees of the first order to nominate themselves for the presidency, Muhsin Dallul said that he supports such an amendment because it paves the way before the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to choose candidates who are qualified for the position of the president of the republic, or to otherwise extend the current president's term for certain political considerations.

Hizballah's Qasim Interviewed on Recent Operations

NC1809190395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1745 GMT 18 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim by Jihad al-'Idan, supervisor of the political program on Tehran radio; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-'Idan] Shaykh Na'im Qasim, what is the message behind the recent operation in southern Lebanon, the target of which was the terrorist Amnon Shahaq, and was it previously planned?

[Qasim] The Islamic Resistance always carries out operations inside the occupied strip against the soldiers of the Israeli enemy and its agents. The brothers monitor the security convoys on a permanent basis in order not to allow the enemy to feel at ease in its behavior in the area. The security convoy was the target. According to reports from the field, there are four ranking officers who have been either wounded or killed. Shahaq could be among them. These details require confirmation. The important thing is that we want to send a practical message which says that the Israeli enemy will not be safe on our territory and that the arm of the Islamic Resistance can destroy all its security measures, which the enemy threatens us with and which it believes are directed against the Islamic Resistance and are capable of restraining its movements. This confirms the Islamic Resistance's resolve to continue chasing the occupier will not be shaken by these military and security measures. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Idan] Was the accident involving Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli in Damascus a mere accident, or was it premeditated as some analyses have indicated?

[Qasim] It was a very normal traffic accident with a Lebanese citizen at night. It led to the death of the shaykh's wife and the injury of his son. The shaykh was not in the same car with them. The family was in the car and the accident took place on the side of the road. In other words, it was not a planned accident. The people who were involved in the accident were also injured after they were thrown. At any rate, they are being investigated. But the accident is a normal accident. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Idan] Shaykh Na'im Qasim, what is Hizballah's strategy to confront the current crucial challenges in southern Lebanon and in the Arab and Islamic arena?

[Qasim] We hoisted a slogan from the very beginning that resisting the Israeli enemy is a priority. In light of this, we call on all forces to unite in confronting this enemy to expel it using force, so that it would not have any pretext of power through which to impose its conditions. Proceeding from this, we believe that all the political stances and other activities are a part of opposing and confronting the enemy. This is what we are doing.

On the level of internal Lebanese affairs, we support domestic peace. We also back the idea that the internal struggle should be a political rather than a military conflict. We advocate the need for all forces to cooperate in various fields to reject the usurping enemy in all forms. This is the most important step all sides can take to prepare for stability in the region.

Foreign Minister Buwayz on Current Issues

MM1809155495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 95 p 2

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified Voice of Lebanon correspondent in Beirut on 16 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has described the "troika rule" as "a grave mistake and innovation." He linked "the political conflicts and the ineffective relations between the institutions to the stagnant economic situation." He again pointed out that "extension [for the president], if it occurs, would require a complete plan and a corrective movement."

In an interview with the Voice of Lebanon's "Saturday Salon," Buwayz, answering a question on the presidential term maturity [expiry and election date], said: "My position on that points in all directions but I proceed on the principle of acknowledging the numerous achievements of the president of the republic. Facts have shown that many decisions he made were necessary and achieved disbanding of the militias, security, stability, reconstruction of the institutions, and return of the refugees and evacuees, although that has not been completed yet. But it is not a question of just the person of the president. We, as people who yearn for democracy, believe that extension would not be beneficial in the existing realities, and if certain local, regional, and international considerations necessitated an extension then that situation must be enriched. My view is that an extension, if it should occur, would require a complete plan and a corrective movement. The institutions should be perfected and interaction between them should take place in a constitutional context."

He asked: "Have the Army and the security forces been built appropriately, and have we achieved the ideal administration we aspire to? The regime took over when Lebanon was in a coma and bankrupt, and we cannot say that Lebanon has fully recovered. We repeat that if there has to be an extension then there should be a national plan so that it would not be said that it was an extension for one person. We would then be able to say that the president has great assets which can be specified by the main state officials."

He said that "the officials should draw up a national plan on the basis of the relationship between the institutions and the state of the various organs, departments, and administrations. The time has come for a reassessment of all conditions and rectification of what should be rectified. If the extension is going to be based on extraordinary conditions then it would be necessary to identify these conditions so that the extension would be for the homeland and not for the individual, in which case the president would be able to say to the public: I accept extension in response to the wishes of the officials on the basis of an integrated plan."

On the prime minister's linkage between the economic situation and the extension option, Buwayz said: "The economic stagnation is linked to political aberrations and perhaps to the question of extension. The state might have engaged in projects beyond the country's capacity, but that is not the main reason. There is the question, for instance, of the hasty betting on peace in the region. We now see many people with a sense of anticipation. If the peace process is delayed, some would lose their sense of political and economic reassurance."

He added: "The politicians do not realize that their differences could affect the investors. If we compare the situation in Lebanon with similar situations in other states, we would find that our situation is actually much better. There is a strong link between politics and the economy. They cannot be separated. The economy is, above all, a question of confidence." He expressed the view that "the presidency is the link between the Constitution, the Lebanese people's wishes, and the work of the institutions, and it should, therefore, be the umpire for the various authorities. That is why it is said that the president is the defender of the Constitution and should, therefore, caution the government and the Chamber of Deputies whenever they stray from the Constitution. Of course, his presence at the head of the cabinet meetings would enable him to examine the constitutionality of the projects submitted. So, the presidency is an institution above the other institutions and is the bridge between the institutions."

He also said: "The troika rule is a grave mistake and innovation. In reality, decisionmaking is no longer in any one place, and that is a serious matter. The line of defense before the president is the prime minister. Then there is the administrative sequence. Every politician should know what goes on around him and in the departments around him."

In reply to another question, Buwayz emphasized that "neither we nor Damascus have an interest in what we see happening sometimes. I believe that Syria has no interest in being thrust into issues pertaining to the Lebanese internal situation. Our relations with Syria have passed through many stages and should not be cemented in the way we are witnessing now. The degree to which we can prove our ability in a balanced situation determines to what extent we deserve the homeland."

On the election law and administrative divisions, he said: "The issue of the election law is very important because it is the first factor which determines the extent of sectarian practice in Lebanon, political stability, and people's participation or lack of it in the affairs of the state and the homeland. This homeland's requirements should be restated, and on that basis the statutes we need would be determined and we would get closer to the remedies. The talk about abolition of sectarianism is 'nonsense' and a provocation to people's logic."

He added: "Logic says that any election law should seek to solve the problem of sectarian practice and profiteering and should, as much as possible, be based on parallel electoral constituencies. The purpose of an election law is to consolidate political stability, which is linked to the existence of blocs and parties. Small constituencies would mean that a deputy would remain independent and that the Chamber would consist of 128 independent seats, and that no government would be able to win the Chamber's majority without individual deals with every deputy separately. An election law based on large constituencies would make it necessary for a candidate to join a bloc, and so the deputies and the newly elected members are compelled to form blocs and alliances. When the Chamber of Deputies is based on major blocs and parties, that would mean the presence of a continuous element of opposition or support for the government. That is why we believe that balanced constituencies are essential for the elimination of political sectarianism."

He added that "any election law should free the deputy from selfishness and should insert him into major blocs through major areas. And a deputy should be freed from the special demands of voters, sometimes on the basis of large constituencies. In practice, if we maintain the sometimes unbalanced constituencies, I believe that sectarianism and instability would continue in Lebanon. I believe that the system of governorates is an acceptable medium, and the current law based on governorates is a logical one which meets the requirements, but we should maintain the governorates as they are. If we decide to make them smaller or larger, we should do so in the context of a national concept. The most dangerous thing would be an 'adulterated' solution and the assessment of matters on the basis of special measures and special cases. To divide Jabal Lubnan and keep Beirut as one governorate, divide al-Biqa' and keep the north as one governorate would be a very dangerous approach indeed and would be an element that could torpedo the entire so-called national accord in Lebanon. Is Jabal Lubnan to be divided because it has a special Christian characteristic while other governorates with no such characteristics remain united? No, either they all become half governorates and proceed on that basis or they remain governorates. Applying different criteria to different areas is unacceptable. I am addressing these words to whom they should be addressed before it is too late and before that issue explodes and proves to be one of Lebanon's biggest explosive internal issues."

On relations with Bkirki [seat of the Maronite patriarch] and its positions on the questions of amendment and extension, he said: "His beatitude the Maronite patriarch is a supreme spiritual authority which sets ideal standards for the homeland and the people. They are correct standards, and the politicians should make them a target and implement whatever they can of them within their capabilities. But there is a difference between men of religion and politicians. Therefore, I may agree with his beatitude on issues and objectives but, in view of the political realities, I sometimes may not be able to achieve all these objectives and may decide to postpone some of them and concentrate on some others for reasons of practical need. As regards the question of amendment of the Constitution, I believe that what I say is not exactly what is said in Bkirki or elsewhere. I caution that the question of extension could 'block' decisions. These loopholes should be plugged first and that road should not be taken before all safeguards for such a decision are available and before such a decision is immunized with major and essential achievements that would support such an option."

On the Palestinians deported by Libya and whether they have a right to return to Lebanon, he said: "The foreign ministry has no particular policy on that. We issue instructions to the missions abroad in accordance with our understanding with the interior ministry on these matters. Actually, after the 1948 exodus [of Palestinians] several agreements were concluded between the United Nations, the Arab League, and a number of Arab and other states under which Palestinian refugees in every state were given a laissez-passer, which is a kind of a passport which does not include citizenship. So, the Palestinians properly registered in Lebanon have lasseiz-passer documents issued by the Lebanese authorities, the Lebanese Public Security Department or the Lebanese consular missions abroad. In the face of the sudden expulsion of about 30,000 Palestinians from Libya in the direction of Lebanon, every state in the world has the power to suspend a document it had issued if that is necessitated by political, security, economic, or social considerations. Hence, the Lebanese Government's decision to suspend the validity of the Lebanese documents issued, suspend renewal of such documents, and suspend the issuing of any entry visas. That decision was made for several reasons: The first reason was political, because the responsibility should not always fall on Lebanon and Lebanon should not be the sacrificial lamb. In the Oslo agreement, Yasir 'Arafat did not give the humanitarian factors any attention. The second reason was social, because Lebanon cannot accommodate the sudden return of people on such a scale. The third reason was that some of these documents may be forged. That is why we decided to suspend them until the social pressure situation is resolved and then these documents would be reconsidered."

On resettlement [of the Palestinians in Lebanon] and its being an item on the peace agenda, he said: "I believe that we in Lebanon are trying to ignite issues that have existed for 50 years. The Palestinians are in Lebanon. In the past there was no possibility or assumption that their problem would be solved and that they would leave. There already was resettlement in reality. Now solutions are proposed. The first is confirmation of the right of repatriation, at least for those who originally hail from Gaza, Jericho, and some other areas. And there is the application of the principle of family reunion. That is in addition to the acknowledgment of the world and international responsibility for that issue, for those who do not come under that category. That is first an Arab responsibility and then an international responsibility. I cannot, so far, enumerate all the solutions for the Palestinian problem. There are headlines which could constitute starting points that might be raised in multilateral talks later on." He added: "Faruq Qaddumi's visit to Beirut has nothing to do with that matter. Its aim is to expose the loopholes and weaknesses in the Oslo agreement and the gaps between the autonomy Authority and the PLO in Tunis. We have informed Qaddumi of Lebanon's reservations and the holes Lebanon said existed in the Oslo agreement. When the issue of services in the camps was raised I was clear: Modification of the areas of the camps is not allowed. The state has no objection to you accepting social aid but you would not be given any license for adding more buildings to the camps. On the question of giving the Palestinians work permits, we said that the Palestinian workers were not seasonal workers and that they would compete with the Lebanese workers, and that the state has no intention of giving the Palestinians work permits in Lebanon."

On the peace negotiations and the Lebanese-Israeli track, Buwayz said: "It is no secret that the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations are frozen, because when we suggested to Israel that resolution 425 should be implemented in return for security and stability in the south without any Lebanese commitment to sign a peace treaty, Israel refused. At the Syrian level, the negotiations are at a standstill because of the issue of the land observation posts. There are hidden efforts to reactivate the issue, and there has been some talk about a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. I believe that Christopher might not come on the usual exploratory tour but might come to peddle some way out of that impasse."

Japan's Murayama Pledges Loan to al-Asad

OW1609093795 Tokyo KYODO in English
0909 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Sept. 16 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama pledged Saturday [16 September] to extend Syria an official loan of up to 46.1 billion yen to support the country's economic development and its efforts to promote peace in the Middle East, the Foreign Ministry said.

Murayama, now on a Middle East tour, made the pledge in a meeting with Syrian Prime Minister Hafiz al-Assad, the ministry said. The yen-denominated official credit will finance a project to construct a thermal power plant in al-Zara, some 200 kilometers north of Damascus, it said.

The loan will be formalized when the two countries exchange documents on the aid within two or three months, a ministry official said.

Radio: Israel 'Fooling Itself,' Playing for Time

JN1809152295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Four years have gone by since the Madrid conference. Throughout these four years, immense efforts were made to enable the peace process to achieve the objective it set out to attain. The peace process is still far from its objective. This is the truth.

Since the peace process kicked off in Madrid, Israel has been working to derail it and push it down rocky roads and rough pathways to make it lose its sense of direction and prevent it from reaching its goal. The current state of the peace process provides conclusive evidence that Israel is not serious about a true and just peace. Israel also rejects all the foundations and principles on which this peace must be established, if it is meant to endure. Had Israel wanted peace, it would not have deliberately sought to waste time and efforts on useless arguments which can only create tension. This tension has many consequences and prospects. Peace is definitely not one of them.

Israel undoubtedly knows that the shortest road to peace is the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and commitment to the land-for-peace principle. Israel's disregard of this axiom confirms that the peace it desires is a self-styled peace tailored to its own conditions, compatible with its schemes, and in harmony with its aspirations. Israel aspires to impose its will on the region and turn the region into an arena under its hegemony.

Had Israel sought real peace, it would not have deviated from the clearcut path and abandoned the shortest and best way to achieve it. Israel would not have circumvented it and worked to push the peace process along deceptive detours that have nothing to do with peace.

The obstacles created by Israel and the demands it is making confirm that its rigid mentality is betting that time is on its side, and that it can — through procrastination, delays, and beating around the bush — bolster and legitimize the status quo. Israel ignores the changes that have taken place in the world and the fact that the world of today is not the same as the world of yesterday, and that force cannot remain its own prerogative. Such a mentality portends consequences that are difficult to contain, and which can proliferate to affect world peace and the interests of all nations.

The road to peace will remain blocked if it continues to deviate from the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. It is high time Israel realized that it impossible for it to impose its self-styled peace on Syria. Israel must also realize that Syria can never be dragged into what the others were dragged into. Syria will not take a single step toward a peace that circumvents Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and that deviates from the land-for-peace principle.

Israel is fooling itself if it thinks that time can change Syria's principled and firm position. This is because this position has never been a tactic. It is a strategic stand which President Hafiz al-Asad has been asserting for over 20 years. President al-Asad has repeatedly called for a just peace which gives each party its rights, ensures everyone's security and interests, and allows the people of the region to devote their resources to development and construction efforts for the good of humanity at large.

Israel is also fooling itself if it thinks peace is possible while rights are still being usurped, and that its security can be maintained while its aggression continues.

Communist Party: Israeli Actions Jeopardize Peace

JN1809172095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Committee of the Syrian Community Party has expressed its pride in the principled, firm, and responsible position adopted by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and UN principles.

The committee urged the masses of our Syrian Arab people, their national and progressive forces, and Arab and world national liberation forces to support this position. It also urged them to back Syria's struggle to liberate the land to the 4 June 1967 borders and to liberate southern Lebanon in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

This was stated in a final statement issued by the Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party at the conclusion of its third periodic meeting this year, held on 14 and 15 September. The meeting was chaired by comrade Yusuf al-Faysal, secretary general of the Central Committee of the party. The meeting was also attended by members of the Party Control Committee and the Financial Inspection Committee.

The Central Committee strongly condemned Israel's intransigent stands that contradict the resolutions of international legitimacy. It also called on the U.S. Administration to intervene, since it is the main sponsor of the negotiations, by playing its required role in advancing the negotiations on the basis of the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The committee warned of the threats posed to peace and security in the region by Israeli practices, citing Israel's continued expansion and settlement activity, alteration of Jerusalem's features and demographic makeup, and partitioning of Palestinian land.

The delegates discussed the meeting's agenda and enhanced and endorsed the Central Committee's report, especially emphasis on the need to bolster national unity and increase the activities of the National Progressive Front and promote its role. The report also emphasized the need to support Syria's principled national policy, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, to enable it to regain the Golan and the rest of the occupied Arab territories and achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

India

Officials Contact Abductors; Hostages Safe

BK1809155295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The officials in Jammu and Kashmir [J and K] had another round of telephonic talks with the abductors of the four foreign tourists. An official spokesman said the hostages were safe. There is no response yet from the kidnappers to the Governor General K.V. Krishna Rao's invitation for direct talks to resolve the hostage crisis.

A 12-member Parliamentary Standing Committee delegation, which is now on a tour to Jammu and Kashmir, visited Tangtar today. Tangtar is situated on the Indo-Pak border. Addressing a public meeting, the leader of the delegation, Mr. Rajni Ranjan Sahu, assured the people of Kashmir full support from the government to mitigate their sufferings. The delegation called on the J and K governor in Raj Bhavan [Governor House]. The governor told the MP's that the Pakistan-sponsored militancy is being put down to a large extent. He said the local militants have almost turned against Pakistan.

Further on Contact With Kidnappers

BK1909063395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0608 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Sept 19 (AFP) — Indian officials said Tuesday [19 September] that they had been in touch with Muslim separatist militants holding four Western tourists in Kashmir and denied reports that troops had clashed with the kidnappers.

Kashmir government spokesman K.B. Jindial said official negotiators here had been contacted by telephone Monday evening by representatives of Al-Faran, the shadowy Muslim separatist group holding the four Westerners.

"There was a contact at 8:00 p.m. last night," the spokesman told AFP in this Kashmir summer capital. "Talks were on a good note."

Jindial denied press reports that Indian troops had been involved in a gunbattle with the kidnappers in Pahalgam district, where the four tourists were kidnapped by Al-Faran militants in early July.

"There was no encounter or any incident like this in or around Pahalgam," he said. "It's all absurd."

A caller claiming to be an Al-Faran spokesman contacted the Press Trust of India and other news organizations on Monday and said the group had lost touch with the militants holding the hostages after a clash with Indian troops.

"We do not know whether the hostages are alive or not," the Urdu- speaking caller reportedly said. He said Al-Faran did not know the current whereabouts of the kidnappers and their hostages.

"The government is bent upon seeing that the hostages are killed as Al-Faran has provided it with enough time to resolve the issue," the caller was quoted as saying.

Government spokesman Jindial recalled that troops had been instructed not to do anything that could endanger the lives of the two Britons, an American and a German being held by Al-Faran.

Another Indian official who requested anonymity said: "We know where they (the kidnappers and the hostages) are. However we have instructed the security forces not to go in the area to avoid a confrontation."

There have been various reports of sightings of the hostages since they were seized more than two months ago while holidaying in the Himalayan trekking resort of Pahalgam, some 60 miles (100 kilometres) east of here. [passage omitted]

'Encounter' With Kidnappers Denied

BK1909011295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An official spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir Government has denied that there has been any encounter between the security forces and the Al-Faran group which is holding four foreign tourists as hostages. The spokesman said strict instructions have been given to the security forces not to engage in any action with the group for securing release of the four kidnapped tourists. He also said contacts with the group are being maintained steadily and the last contact was made yesterday evening around 2000 [1430 GMT].

Agency reports have quoted the Al-Faran group as claiming that it had lost contact with its activists holding the hostages after an alleged encounter with the security forces in the Pahalgam area.

Rao Departs for Visit to Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan

BK1909052395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has left New Delhi this morning on a five-day visit of the Central Asian countries of Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Narasimha Rao was seen off at the airport by his cabinet colleagues and senior civil and military officials.

Our correspondents covering the prime minister's visit say Mr. Rao's discussions in both the capitals are expected to give a new impetus to bilateral cooperation.

Commentary Views Upcoming Rao Visit

BK1809151995 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 18 Sep 95

[Commentary by M.K. Dhar: "The Prime Minister's Visit to Turkmenistan and Kyrgyz Republic To Boost Bilateral Ties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's new foreign policy orientation after the Cold War gives priority to its neighbors, to Central Asia, the Gulf region, and to Southeast Asia. Its relations with the newly emerged Asian Republics have been historically friendly and their leaders are especially keen for this relationship to grow as rapidly as possible. These newly independent countries are passing through a process of external and internal adjustments with a view to intimating themselves to the international community following the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Cashing in on the tremendous fund of goodwill for India in these countries, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has already visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. He will cover two other republics of Turkmenistan and Kyrgyz Republic from 19 to 23 September, which will enable him to renew contacts with the leaders of these countries and also to further cement bilateral, cultural, and economic ties. The location of Central Asia at the crossroad to major power centers and its geographical proximity to Russia, China, Iran, and Afghanistan highlight its significance for India. Some of these countries also face the twin threats of fundamentalism and terrorism, including cross border terrorism.

India also shares the fears expressed by other countries of the spread of extremist forces into Central Asia. It is in (?dual) strategic interest that these countries despite their majority Muslim populations stay secular and democratic. The leadership now in position in these countries fortunately for the region as a whole has opted for the secular as opposed to the fundamentalist path of development. This is in spite of the propaganda conducted by some countries, including Pakistan, in favor of Islamization of these countries and flooding them with religious literature and funds for building madrasas [religious schools] and mosques. The president of Turkmenistan, Mr. Saparmurad Niyazov, and the president of Kyzgyz Republic, Mr. Askar Akayev, have both visited India and sought help in several ways, including training of their personnel. On the question of keeping fundamentalist forces at bay, both have expressed similar views. Mr. Niyazov said recently that he does not believe in the fundamentalism and his government is committed to remain a secular state. Mr. Akayev, who has initiated a smooth process of dismantling the command system and in ushering in a market-oriented economy, also says that Kyrgyz Republic is not going to take the way of Islamic fundamentalism.

The prime minister has accordingly identified Central Asia as a thrust area in political and economic strategies to be undertaken in the region. India has already signed several agreements with Turkmenistan and Kyrgyz Republic. During Mr. Rao's visit, two more agreements on cooperation in science and technology and tourism will be signed with the Kyrgyz Republic. India has sanctioned a $5 million credit line to both the republics and several Indian entrepreneurs have shown interest in setting up joint ventures in these countries. India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Turkmenistan on a transit route between the two countries through Iran. Mr. Rao will take stock of the progress made in drafting a treaty to provide for unhindered movement of goods from Bombay to Bandar Abbas in Iran and onward by road and rail to Turkmenistan. That would open up Central Asia to Indian goods and services in a big way. Both these countries suffer from infrastructural deficiencies though they have tremendous reserves of oil, gas, and hydro-power. They have an interest in exporting gas and even power to India. The Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission is being activated and steps are being taken to implement the agreement on interbanking corporation to facilitate trade and convertible currencies and also for training of personnel in Indian institutions. Turkmenistan has excellent chances of attaining quick economic growth with its large gas and mineral reserves. President Niyazov supports development of external economic links, especially with India. Both republics are mountainous and agricultural and [their] animal husbandry sectors are well developed. They require help in food preservation and processing and development of leather industry based on their immense wealth of livestock. The prime minister's visit to both these countries is therefore expected to be extremely rewarding both in political and economic terms.

Article Views Trade With China as 'Happy Augury'

BK1909085095 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Sep 95 p 11

[Article by N.M. Khilnani: "Avenues of Cooperation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Both India and China are to cooperate in setting up a $170 million project for the development of iron ore mines in India. A high official of China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic

Cooperation (Moftec) said on Aug 11 that while China will supply equipment and coking coal for the project, the Indian side will export iron ore to China.

Emphasising the growing Sino-Indian economic and commercial cooperation, Moftec officials have identified float glass, cement plants, steel plants, mini-power plants, textiles equipment and electronics components as areas where China could supply ultramodern and advanced technology besides exploring the possibility of setting up joint ventures in India.

Both the Asian giants may also explore the possibility of setting up advanced technological-cum-manufacturing plants in some South- East Asian countries such as Malaysia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Singapore. Such a pattern of economic cooperation could be a healthy counterpoise to growing American economic penetration of the Asian markets.

India also intends to purchase porcelain equipment from China, as porcelain products are very popular in Eastern India, Burma and Thailand.

The bilateral trade between China and India has already reached the billion dollar mark. It is relevant to recall that in 1994, India became the largest trading partner of China in South Asia, far surpassing the trade volume of Pakistan and Sri Lanka. China has also shown keenness to increase import of iron ore, urea, drugs and pharmaceuticals, tobacco, timber and plywood from India. China is also interested in purchasing dead tigers from India as very important medicines are produced in China which are becoming very popular in Europe and the Americas.

China is eager to export coal and mining equipment, power tillers with less than 20 horse power capacity, mini-power plants, trolley buses, steel making equipment, telecommunication and oil exploration equipment. These items produced in China are reported to be superior to those produced in the United States, where the production capacity in both quantity and quality is lower than produced in Japan and China clearly what Spenglar had predicted in the forties about the "decline of the West" has now begun. This is true both in the production of economic goods as well as those in the realm of ideas and intellectual output.

China is also planning to increase her imports from India in the fields of pharmaceutical industry, electronics equipment (in which India is second only to Japan in Asia), computer software, fertilisers and timber.

So far, China has set up only one joint venture in India — a medium size steel plant in Orissa, while India has set up three joint ventures in China — a pharmaceutical factory, a moped factory and a modern plant for making refractories. India has invested nearly $20 million in these joint ventures.

The Sino-Indian trade has barely touched the outer fringe of economic cooperation. The scope for expansion is immense. The increasing commercial cooperation between China and India would, in due course of time, blunt the edges of remaining political differences between the two countries over the unsettled border questions. It was the European common market that removed the last vestiges of Franco-German hostility (which had resulted in three conflicts between France and Germany in 1870, 1914 and 1939). The recent expansion of trade between India and China is thus a happy augury for economic and political cooperation.

China is made up of 56 ethnic groups. According to the Fourth National Population Census in 1990, the total population of the country numbered 1.133 billion, 1.042 billion (91.96 per cent) of whom were the Han people. The remaining 91 million people belong to the other 55 minority nationalities. They are Mongolian Hui, Tibetan, Uygur, Miao, Yi, Zhuang, Bouyei, Korean, Manchu, Dong, Yao, Bai, Tujia, Hani, Kazak, Dai and Li.

Significant achievements in economic and cultural fields have been made in minority areas with the help and support of the State through the efforts of people of all nationalities. In 1990 the gross agricultural output value in autonomous areas of minorities totalled 47.518 billion yuan, 15.23 times the 1949 figure or 3.05 times the 1978 figure.

Similarly, the sub-nationalities in Jammu, Ladakh, Kargil, in the main valley in Kashmir and in Assam and Madhya Pradesh can profit greatly from the Chinese experiment. Both economic development and social cohesion can be increased.

In foreign policy in general, the Chinese State displays greater dynamism flexibility and speed. Our policy-makers are a bit slow. In our policy to the United States, India should display greater speed and initiative in taking advantage of economic gains. Similarly we are not as fast in availing of economic advantages which Israel and South Africa can offer. Both Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi were quick to mend fences with China and these diplomatic initiatives were greatly appreciated by Chinese leaders.

Commentary Reviews Visit by Danish Prime Minister

BK1509132795 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Sep 95

[Commentary by Mahendra Ved]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Visits by high dignitaries from Europe are generally a quick affair, lasting no more than a couple of days. A visit lasting 11 days by Denmark's Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen that was wound up yesterday should be some kind of a happy milestone. After two days of talks with Indian leadership, Mr. Rasmussen and his large team literally did India, visiting a number of cities. The emphasis was on a large number of social welfare programs in which Denmark is deeply immersed in India, and the message was that bilateral relations need not be all protocols, agreements, and banquets. This makes the Rasmussen visit (?quite) different from others that have taken place in recent years.

Mention Denmark and you can conjure a pictures of windmills and dairies with milk and milk products aplenty. Disparities in terms of population and prosperity between India and Denmark have not affected the warmth of the relations. Through all these years the Danes have been investing in Indian goodwill — investing in social welfare projects ranging from watershed management, drinking water supply, to prevention of blindness. The investment in Indian economy has, rather, been slow even after the Indian economic reforms were ushered in four years ago. Denmark had been monitoring the Indian reforms and watching the course as they take. Now that watching and waiting period is over, it is the Danes who will come into full blast and invest heavily. Through 1991-95, the value of Danish economic project is a modest rupees 425 crores, mainly in small and medium industries in wind energy generation and dairy products. The bilateral trade which was about 1 billion Danish kroner each way is likely to double this year. But all that may be left behind.

Mr. Rasmussen's team included as many as 60 representatives of industries and business enterprises who have scouted for investment in India. The results of the scouting may be known only in the next few months. India is hoping for large-scale Danish investments in scientific equipment, chemicals, fertilizers, and music systems. Even technology transfer would be welcome. A number of joint ventures are already in different stages of implementation. Several memorandums of understanding have now been signed in the field of telecommunications. Cement and food processing are other areas. The bilateral agreement on promotion and protection of each other's investment signed during the visit should help in this direction. But Mr. Rasmussen did not emphasize on economic ties at all while meeting the media persons in New Delhi. He began by asking why are we here and himself answered that this was the right time; right place; right occasion to speak of peace, democracy, social and economic progress. He wanted India, no longer a struggler in social and economic terms, to launch a new era of soft security. This entails investing 20 percent of the resources directly for the social betterment of its people by changing priorities.

The visit to India was a dream come true for him and his wife. Having expressed such warm sentiments, Mr. Rasmussen got down to expounding the Danish world view that envisages a peaceful, a nuclear-free globe. It was on the issue of terrorism that Mr. Rasmussen came out in clear terms. He not only regretted the beheading of the Norwegian tourist Hans-Christian Ostro by the Al- Faran terrorists in Kashmir, but he also shared the agony of the Indian people on the assassination of the Punjab chief minister, Beant Singh. He recalled that on the very day of Ostro's beheading, foreign ministers of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden had demanded that terrorists, no matter who they are and who supported them, must release the remaining four hostages and they must be brought to book.

In most areas, he said India is at a takeoff stage and we are here to do whatever we can. His views were echoed earlier by Mr. Rao, who said it was not the volume of bilateral trade and investment that mattered but the spirit in which this was done.

Article Views Witholding of 'Mid-Term Appraisal'

BK1509134695 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 Sep 95 p 13

[Article by B.M. Bhatia: "Why Blame Reforms?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Unnecessary fuss is being created over the government's decision to withhold from public the Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) prepared by the Planning Commission on the progress of the Eighth Plan during the first three years. The document is said to have been put under wraps and declared a "classified" one because it is very critical of the government's economic policies pursued during that period and continued till today. These new policies are deregulation and liberalisation of the economy. It is alleged that since MTA contains a severe indictment of the government's economic policies, the ruling party would not like an official document to be made public in an election year.

There seems to be a grain of truth in the accusation. But a wise government would have avoided that criticism by placing the document in its original form before the National Development Council and parliament and then, in the course of discussions, pointed out that the period covered by MTA was exactly the same as the first three years of economic reforms. Those three years were the period of transition from state planning and regulation of the economy to a free market and liberalisation of the economy.

The transition period everywhere is a difficult period and the long-term results of reforms cannot be judged by the performance of the economy during that short period. By suppressing the MTA which in any case has become a public document since some national dailies have come out with details of its contents, the government has unwittingly prejudiced its own case which otherwise is quite strong.

Some analysts have gone so far as to suggest that the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, has used MTA as a weapon to attack Dr Manmohan Singh and his policies. They have even suggested that MTA has been put under wraps because of the strong exceptions the finance minister had taken to the critical comments in the document on fiscal, and liberalisation policies with which he has identified himself. This accusation is so far- fetched that very few would be prepared to accept it. The reasons for withdrawal of the report lie elsewhere.

As press reports suggested, two full-time members, who had made a critical reference to government policies resulting in collapse of the energy and resource mobilisation targets in the first four years of the Eighth Plan, refused to change "the wording of key sentences" in their respective chapters. This shows that in the discussion on the appraisal document within the Planning Commission, members were looking more at the areas under their direct personal charge rather than on the Plan as a whole, more to micro-level policies like those on power generation capacity, setting up of new oil refineries, and privatisation of public sector units by disinvestment of their shares to private sector, rather than on macro level policies of the desirability or otherwise of fiscal correction, economic stabilisation, structural adjustments required to shift the economy from its direction by the state which is what planning means, to one governed by the market forces.

At the root of the confusion lies the fact that the type of planning characterising the Eighth and the previous Seven Plans is incompatible with a competitive economy which the economic reforms launched in July 1991, aim to establish. The Indian variety of planning is not centralised planning, the type the erstwhile Soviet Union had. Our five-year plans have essentially been public sector investment plans. The growth targets for the economy as a whole and for its various sectors are fixed in relation to total and sectoral investments.

The Planning Commission does not look after implementation of the Plan; that is the responsibility of the administration and of the States. It only evaluates the achievements of the Plan and sits in judgement over the shortfalls that might occur in realisation of the fixed targets. This leads to peculiar situations.

The irrigation potential created under major and medium irrigation works during the seven five-year plans at the end of 1991-92 was 30.7 million hectares but the actual utilisation of 26.3 million hectares was 4.4 million hectares less th created potential. Where did this 4.4 million hectares of created irrigation potential go? The Planning Commission has repeatedly been asked this question but to date no satisfactory explanation has been put forth. There are numerous such examples in almost all the previous five-year plans of shortfalls in the achievement of Plan targets.

The fact is that a planned economy is a world apart from the free market economy. With the introduction of economic reforms, the Planning Commission has lost its clout. Is MTA a subtle attempt to regain at least part of the lost ground? If that is the case, the Commission should fight its battle of survival in a different way. There is a place for planning even in a market- oriented or free market economy that India has now opted for. But that has to be a different type of planning and not the system of planning on which the Eighth Plan is based.

The new system of planning should be of indicative variety and policy-formulation oriented and not the financial resources allocative affair leaving a wide gap between promise and performance which it has been so far. For good results there has to be a close coordination between Plan formulation in the Yojana Bhavan and policy making at the level of various ministries in the government.

MTA has three main points of criticism of the government policies. These are: (i) Reduction in fiscal deficit has been brought about at the cost of cuts in allocation of funds to the social sectors like education, public health, housing etc. (ii) In the pursuit of liberalisation philosophy enjoined by economic reforms, attention has been diverted from the nationally accepted goals of alleviation of poverty and unemployment with the result that the incidence of both poverty and unemployment has increased in the first three years of reforms which is also the first three years of the Eighth Plan's five-year period. (iii) Foodgrains per capita availability has declined in the three-year period under review and so has public investment in the agricultural sector and consumption of fertilisers by farmers which allegedly is adversely affecting food production in the country. None of these objections would stand close scrutiny.

The Commission's complaint on fiscal deficit arises from confusion of thought. MTA wants the government to tone down its zeal for reducing fiscal deficit which it fears could impair economic growth. The government, instead, should cut down its mounting revenue deficit says the Commission. This advice is unexceptionable on economic and fiscal grounds. The Commission betrays its own confusion on the subject, when it suggests in MTA that "there may be case for relaxing the fiscal compression if the economy is to grow". One does not know what the Planning Commission is criticising. In the last two years the government has been doing precisely what the Commission is suggesting: going slow on fiscal compression so that economic growth may be kept up. This way of keeping up the growth rate breeds inflation and increased government borrowing which, in turn, leads to further accumulation of public debt and rise in interest charges. Since the latter forms part of revenue expenditure, increase in it becomes an important element in the increase in revenue deficit, which the Commission advises the government to reduce severely. Is it a case of double thinking, circular reasoning or confusing cause with effect on the part of the Planning Commission?

The Commission wants the revenue deficit to be cut. This view would be endorsed by every right thinking person. But how? By cutting down government expenditure? Interest charges, defence, administration and subsidies are the principal items of revenue expenditure. Of these only the last item, subsidies, with promise of bringing down revenue account deficit substantially if all expenditure on this account which amounts to Rs 12000 13000 crore is cut. The expenditure on the other three heads is more or less of an obligatory nature and the finance minister can do nothing about it in immediate terms. But the Commission will not accept any cutting down of subsidies. It bemoans the shortfall in consumption of fertilisers from the targets fixed, reduction in the availability of foodgrains and the drop in the availability of pulses which incidentally is a trend coming down from the fifties and not a product of the three years of reforms.

The second point of criticism, viz. economy reforms have diverted national attention from the all important goals of alleviation of poverty and reduction in unemployment, is equally of a tenuous nature. If seven five-year plans extending over a period of four decades could not make any perceptible dent in the incidence poverty and unemployment, is it reasonable to expect three years of reforms to accomplish that. Planning has completely failed on that score. Let us not flog the dead horse. Only liberalisation holds the promise of securing worthwhile results in those two fields, which so far have remained intractable.

The third cause of complaint is that the per capita availability of foodgrains and pulses has gone down in the review period of three years. The inference intended to be drawn from this is that food supply in the country is falling. But what about 37 million tonnes of food stocks that the Food Corporation has accumulated due to the foolish food price policy pursued by the government over the last four years? The maintenance of these stocks is proving too costly an affair for the public exchequer. The larger part of food subsidy burden represents the cost of maintaining these stocks.

MTA suffers from a basic statistical error. It compares growth rate achieved during the three years preceding reforms with that achieved in the three post-reform years. Apart from the fact that the latter three years represent transitional period, it was conveniently forgotten by MTA that the pre-reform high growth three years were exactly the years which paved the way to the economic crisis of 1990-91. It was that crisis which forced the country to switch from the earlier barren development strategy to the new strategy of securing growth through deregulation, improved productive efficiency, increased competitiveness, export promotion and inviting foreign investments. It is wrong to compare the performance of the economy in these two different periods of divergent circumstances.

Further Commentary on Witholding Appraisal

BK1809071595 Madras THE HINDU in English
15 Sep 95 p 12

[Editorial: "Plan Performance"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At a time when the government seems to have come round to the view that its decisions and action should have "transparency", it is unfortunate that the contents of the mid-term appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan should have badly unnerved the Planning Commission and dissuaded it from making them known to the country at large. Whatever has since come to be known suggests that the mid-term appraisal is highly critical of the plan performance. If this were so, it only makes it even more obligatory for the Commission to take the people into confidence and give them a correct picture of the state of the economy. Its reluctance to do this could only damage the government's credibility and leave the people highly sceptical about the claims being made for the new economic policy and the performance of the economy since the launching of the reform programme four years ago.

The Economic Division of the Ministry of Finance has, among other things, mentioned that the country's overall economic growth which had fallen to less than 1 per cent in 1991-92 recovered quickly to 4.3 per cent in 1992-93 and 1993-94 and improved further to 5.6 per cent in 1994-95. During 1995-96 the gross domestic product is projected to grow by 6 per cent. It says that industrial production which was virtually in a state of stagnation in 1991-92 increased steeply by 8.4 per cent in 1994-95. The 24 per cent growth in capital goods production, we are told, is an indication that the investment climate is buoyant. Additional employment generation amounted to an average of 6 million jobs in 1992-93 and 1993-94 and 7.2 million jobs in 1994-95. Inflows of foreign investments rose to $4.1 billions in 1993-94 and $4.9 billions during 1994-95. Exports in dollar terms went up by 18.4 per cent in 1994-95 on top of the 20.4 per cent growth in 1993-94 and exports went up by 27.7 per cent during April-June 1995. There has been a sharp increase in the coverage of import payments by export earnings during the post- liberalisation period. Foodgrains production hit a record level of 190 million tonnes in 1994-95 after declining to 168 million tonnes in 1991-92. In short, the picture is rosy according to the Finance Ministry.

If so much could be said about the performance of the economy, it is very strange for the planning Commission to have decided to put the wraps on the mid-term appraisal. If the appraisal takes a different and a critical view of what has been achieved, the country has a right to know what it is so that there could be a national debate on perceptions about the performance of the economy. The Commission's reluctance to follow a policy of transparency in this regard could only raise doubts about the veracity of the claims which have been made and a sample of which has just been given. Had the Commission been a little more imaginative, it would easily have seen how it could have gained from imparting transparency to the mid-term appraisal.

Media reports suggest that the locus of the mid-term appraisal is on the performance in the social sectors relating to health, education and in the implementation of schemes targeting the vulnerable sections of the people. There could be no justification for keeping the lid on a document highlighting these shortcomings since it would have provided a well-needed, sobering corrective to temper the euphoria felt over the strides taken in industrial and agricultural production, exports and employment generation. It is, therefore, the Planning Commission's duty to make the contents of the mid-term appraisal available in its entirety. If, on the other hand, it is going to "redraft" the same, it will only spark suspicions that the report is being watered down. This will greatly harm its credibility.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Continues West Azerbaijan Tour

LD1709130495 Tehran IRNA in English
1150 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Miandoab, West Azerbaijan Prov., Sept. 17, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said the second five-year development plan (1995-1999) has provided an appropriate opportunity for people to work and direct the country towards development.

The president, speaking at the administrative council of West Azerbaijan Saturday [16 September] night, said as the possibility of building up the country has run high, people's expectations have increased as well.

Referring to the country's foreign exchange income, the president added that a considerable portion of the hard currency revenues could be earmarked to reconstruction affairs.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here on his 4th day of tour of West Azerbaijan Province, thanked the people of West Azerbaijan for their unprecedented hospitality towards him and also lauded the Kurdish population of the province for their commitment to the Islamic revolution.

The president said West Azerbaijan is a province rich in natural and human resources.

Referring to huge investments made in the province for building dams, the president emphasized that the process of eradicating deprivation would continu in rural areas of the province.

Addressing officials of the province, the president urged them to implement development plans that create jobs in vast plains of Maku and areas between Orumiyeh, the capital of the province and Sar Dasht that have abundant water resources.

The president, pointing to the unity of Sunni and Shiite Muslims from various walks of life and their adherence to the Islamic revolution, expressed hope that the province will become more developed.

The president also addressed a large group of people, who had gathered in Miandoab to welcome him, lauding the local people for their spirit of resistance and their love of freedom.

The president vowed that all aspiration of local people for development would be materialized by the end of the 2nd five-year plan (1995-1999).

He stated that a plan to lay railroads around the Orumiyeh lake which would pass through Miandoab and another one to provide the city with tapped gas would be implemented soon.

Gives Interview About Tour

LD1909122995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1000 GMT on 19 September carries a 37-minute recorded interview with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani about his recent tour of West Azerbaijan Province. The date of the interview is not given.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani says the main objective of his trip was to meet the people there. He was overwhelmed by and very pleased by his reception from the people of a region that is subjected to "the enemy's propaganda bombardment." He says he was also pleased with the good security situation in the border region, while, on the other side of the border, the people are in "turmoil."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani states that he was also impressed with the sense of solidarity in a region that is religiously and ethnically very diverse. He also makes particular note of the Kurds and says they showed a sincere commitment to the revolution and the regime. He dismisses as "nonsense" the preconception held by many people abroad that the Iranian Kurds want independence from Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also mentions the people's enthusiasm there for reconstruction and productive work and says the province is blessed with rich natural resources. Hashemi-Rafsanjani concludes by discussing the many development projects that have been undertaken in the region and adds that more should be done to attract tourists to the area.

President Praises Shiite-Sunni Unity

LD1309215295 Tehran IRNA in English
2101 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orumiyeh (West Azerbaijan Prov.), Sept. 13, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told poets here today that the current of the Islamic revolution had found its way in the art and literature environment.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the commitment of arts and artists is commitment to the revolution, equity, and morals and true human values. He said the Islamic revolution, in fact, has led to the flowering of art in all spheres, and has removed the misconceptions that were raised in some quarters a decade-and-a-half back that a religious atmosphere was not capable of meeting the aspirations and imaginations of artists.

Later in the day, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed a joint meeting of West Azerbaijan's Shi'ite and Sunni 'ulema, saying that difference between the two schools of Islam, were minor and quite negligible if seen in the proper perspective and the broader interests of the society. He lauded the unity between Shi'ite and Sunni 'ulema in this western border province, and said that this would lead to the further progress and development of West Azerbaijan in different fields. The president lauded the role of the 'ulema in the political, cultural, social economic and industrial fields, and said the ulema had maintained their presence on the various scenes including the war fronts and offered many martyrs.

President Stresses Value of Telecommunications

NC1509093195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0330 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Thirty-six telecommunications projects costing 140 billion rials went into operation in West Azerbaijan Province last night in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The huge intercity exchange in Orumiyeh and the 10,000-number digital center in Kho'i, along with 26 post and telegraph offices with international links in rural areas and six telephone exchanges with 33,900 subscribers also became operational. The projects cost 95 billion rials.

At the inauguration ceremony for the 10,000-number digital center in Kho'i, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke on broadening telecommunications facilities to save time and expedite operations, which he described as one of society's basic needs.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Our society did not use telecommunications facilities to the full in the past and suffered immense losses as a result. If the same policy continued today, things would be much worse.

The president added: Today, indigenous experts are overseeing most telecommunication functions and the construction of centers that accommodate over 1,000 numbers. This has reduced these departments' dependence on foreign exchanges.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then inaugurated the new library of the Islamic Open University in Kho'i.

President Congratulates Kurds in Mahabad City

LD1609110895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Mahabad, Azarbaijan Province, at noon today and was welcomed warmly by the people of that city. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] [passage omitted] The president thanked the faithful and excited Kurdish people of Mahabad for their warm welcome, saying: I feel with all my being that I am among a warmhearted, kind, and true people who are faithful to the revolution and to Islam. This unprecedented, glorious scene in Mahabad is a thorn in the eye of those who have tried for years to sow discord between Kurds and non-Kurds with their evil slogans.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the efforts by the enemies of the Muslim people of Iran, saying: Those who claim to respect public opinion, if they are telling the truth, should show pictures of this scene in Mahabad via their satellites.

The president praised the unity and solidarity of the people throughout the country and said: If our people were not united, we could not have brought America to its knees this quickly following the U.S. sanctions against Iran. And if this unity did not exist, the eight-year war would have brought our people to their knees.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the enemies' hostility toward the Islamic revolution, saying: Just look at the difference between ourselves and Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey. Here, you can see the relationship between the Kurdish people and the president and one can see what is happening over there. It is a wonder that they have aimed their propaganda at Mahabad when there are cultured, advanced, progressive, intelligent, hard working and educated people here. It is also a wonder that the enemies cannot see that the people here are serving the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Daily Calls For Free Elections in Algeria

LD1709082995 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — The silence of human rights organiztions over the suppression of Algerian Muslims and the neglect of their rights by the government indicate that the humanitarian bodies are under the influence of big powers who have a vested interest in suppressing the Islamic movement in Algeria, a morning daily wrote Sunday [17 September].

"The human rights organizations should try to convince the ruling junta in Algeria to hold free elections as soon as possible in order to put an end to the bloodshed and rescue thousands of Muslims, the true representatives of the people, who are languishing in prisons," the English language TEHRAN TIMES added.

More than 30,000 people have died in the fighting in Algeria since the government annulled elections in January 1992 which the now banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win, it noted.

"Unfortunately what is happening in Algeria is a total disregard of the people's vote in the name of fighting what the ruling clique in Algiers calls fundamentalism," the editorial stressed.

The ruling junta in Algeria lost its legitimacy the moment it annulled the 1992 elections, it said, adding that the ruling group threfore cannot claim to represent people.

"Those who have imposed themselves on the Algerian people are not in a position to decide for the Algerian Muslim nation," it stated.

Ironically, it said, unable to meet the challenges from the FIS, the ruling clique in Algeria spares no effort in tarnishing the image of the FIS by accusing them of receiving support from outside the country.

"Indeed, after the annulment of the 1992 election, it is clear even to a layman that the Islamic movement in Algeria has its roots in Algeria: It is a popular, religious movement supported by the people who want to run the affairs of their country without foreign interference," the article reiterated.

It concluded by saying that instead of blaming others for his domestic problems, the Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi had better hold free elections.

Paper Discusses Situation in Balkans

LD1909134695 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA — If the U.N. and big powers are willing to see peace in the Balkans, it is time to lift the arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia in order to help Bosnians defend themselves, an English-language daily wrote Tuesday [19 September].

"Holding meetings does not help the Bosnians. Enough rhetoric, it is time the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) acted," 'TEHRAN TIMES' added.

With the recent gains in Bosnia, the Muslims and Croats now control almost half of the country. Although the Serbs are aware of this fact, they continue to demonstrate stubbornness and do not fully comply with NATO conditions of withdrawing heavy weapons from around Sarajevo. "There is no doubt that war brings misery for both belligerent parties," the editorial underlined addding, but the Serbs do not want to understand this. Once again instead of encouraging the Serbs to sit at the negotiating table, the U.N. has asked Bosnians to stop military operations, it stressed.

"The U.N. is probably well aware that the Serbs do not understand any logic other than force. Therefore, one may draw the inference that the U.N. is not impartial in the Balkan crisis."

Since April 1992 the Bosnians have been subject to Serb atrocities, and the international community has failed to put an end to Serb crimes, the daily reiterated concluding, "it is not an appropriate time to ask them to stop military operations."

Larijani, German Ambassador Hold Talks

LD1909140995 Tehran IRNA in English
1345 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA — German ambassador to Tehran, Horst Beshmann here on Tuesday [19 September] held talks with Iranian deputy chairman of Majles foreign policy commission, Mohammad Javad Larijani on issues concerning Germany's political developments as well as the situation in Bosnia.

Larijani said the entity of Bosnia-Herzegovina was from the beginning aimed at creating a state where the people from different cultures and races could live with equal civil rights in peace and security, but, unfortunately, this main point has changed in the peace plan.

Europe should not only appreciate the territorial integrity and existence of bosnia, but also regard as its responsibility to bring the disintegrated state together and help narrow the gap in Bosnian society so that they would become united in a period of time.

On European assistance to Bosnia, Larijani said the European Community should focus its assistance to Bosnia on constructive projects.

Beshmann said Germany's policy towards Bosnia has been in the same direction and hoped that the negotiations between Iran and Europe would go on strongly. The German ambassador renewed his invitation to Larijani to take part in the conference on Europe and Islam in Germany.

Foreign Minister Returns From Meeting in Armenia

LD1809211995 Tehran IRNA in English
2054 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep. 18, IRNa — The Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned Monday [18 September] from the third trilateral session held in Yerevan.

Velayati told the press that the trilateral session was held at the level of foreign ministers of Armenia, Turkmenistan and Iran. He went on to say that four specialized committees on business, banking, transportation and energy were set up to explore the areas of cooperation.

He said that a letter of understanding has been signed which will allow the three countries to cooperate in the economic field, adding that the business ceiling and exchange of goods has been set.

The results of the third trilateral session will receive final scrutiny and assessment in the fourth trilateral session in Ashgabat where the three foreign ministers from Iran, Turkmenistan and Armenia are expected to meet again.

Trilateral Meeting of Foreign Ministers Discussed

NC1909074595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0345 GMT 19 Sep 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you heard in the news, Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, who went to Yerevan to participate in the third session of the trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkmenistan, and Armenia returned to Tehran last night. He described the outcome of the tripartite meeting in Yerevan to correspondents.

The trilateral session of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkmenistan, and Armenia is the third of its kind for these three countries. In the previous sessions, the three discussed ways and means of cooperation and strengthened the preliminary bases for trilateral cooperation within the framework of a memorandum of understanding among their foreign ministers. They submitted their assessments in each area to experts for followup.

In the tripartite session in Yerevan which concluded yesterday, a memorandum of understanding was signed, on the basis of which trilateral economic and commercial cooperation will be upgraded to a specific ceiling for a trilateral exchange of goods.

To reevaluate the modus operandi of the trilateral exchange of goods and services and further cooperation, four committees on trade and economic affairs, banking, transportation, and energy were set up after discussions among experts. The results of the session will be reviewed in Ashgabat in Azar [22 November-21 December] this year. The fourth trilateral session will be held in Tehran in Dey [22 December-20 January].

Agreements on issues such as the construction of a 200-km pipeline from Turkmenistan to the Neka Power Plant [in Iran], the establishment of a joint transport company, and on trilateral banking facilities can be considered among the most significant gains of the Yerevan session. Of even greater importance is that this session marks another step in the progress of the Islamic Republic of Iran's regional policy with a multilateral emphasis, which is having new and fruitful experiences.

The trilateral Yerevan session is not the first practical manifestation of this policy. A week earlier, the Iran-Turkmenistan-Ukraine trilateral session was held in Ashgabat and considerable success was reached in the trilateral exchange of goods and services and the implementation of development projects. Similar commercial relations among Iran, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan were discussed later at the trilateral session of the foreign ministers of these three countries. In the near future, other three-sided sessions will be held, which will probably include countries such as India, Pakistan, and Japan.

Political and economic experts believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran's innovative policy, which is swiftly forging ahead in the region, has had extremely beneficial results. The republics of the former Soviet Union and other Asian countries are experiencing a shortage of foreign exchange and need to boost their trade exchange to meet their daily needs. This policy will assist these countries in achieving greater untapped capacity and in exchanging goods among them without taking into account their foreign exchange resources.

In addition, moving to a multifaceted policy ensures the protection and consolidation of friendly relations among the region's countries and promotes peace, stability, and security. Due to this policy, all the countries can benefit from their neighbors to the maximum extent to attain greater growth and development and meet their needs.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's multilateral policy has now yielded its first fruit and it is hoped that as this policy progresses neighboring countries will meet most of their needs without resorting to foreign power blocs.

Bucharest Stresses Expansion of Ties With Tehran

LD1509145595 Tehran IRNA in English
1431 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Sept. 15, IRNA — Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu, referring to Iran's economic abilities and regional developments, stressed on expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic.

At a meeting with Mahmud Sadri, Iran's ambassador to Bucharest, Melescanu, who is also deputy prime minister, underlined Romanian interest for participation in regional oil/gas projects, and also said his country will actively take part in Tehran international exhibitions.

Sadri briefed the Romanian official on Iran's construction activities, as well as its international policies aimed at establishment of peace and stability.

Romania's State Secretary in Religious Affairs, Ilie Fonta, who also met the Iranian envoy, paid respect to the Iranian nation and expressed readiness for close cooperations with Iranian religious organizations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Kazakh Counterpart

LD1609213195 Tehran IRNA in English
2105 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA — The Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister, Vicilav Gizatov [name as received], on official visit to Iran, stated here Saturday [16 September] that Kazakhstan gives top priority in its foreign policy to the promotion of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Gizatov asked for an expansion of relations in all fields at the meeting with Mahmud Va'ezi, the deputy foreign minister for American and European affairs.

The Kazakh deputy foreign minister indicated the importance of expediting economic cooperation between the two countries, specifically in setting up Saderat bank branches in Almaty, in addition to the finalization of the oil deal cooperation, as serious steps towards achieving that end.

Gizatov also mentioned the need for defining the Caspian legal [word indistinct], adding that his country is anticipating close cooperation with the littoral countries of the Caspian Sea in reaching an agreement in that area.

The deputy foreign [passage indistinct] in the construction of buildings and sdtting up industries in this new capital city.

The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Va'ezi congratulated Gizatov on the successful referendum held in Kazakhstan for the people to give their approval on the new constitution. He expressed his satisfaction at the good trend of the expansion of the relations between the two countries and hoped that continued contacts should be maintained between the officials of the two countries.

Va'ezi stressed the need for promoting relations in the industrial sector and the enforcement of the agreement reached between the two countries during the official visit by Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Kazakhstan.

The deputy foreign minister finally stated that the best way of reaching an agreement on the new Caspian Sea legal regime is through the continuation of talks between the five littoral states of the Caspian Sea.

First Vice President, Bangladeshi Envoy Meet

LD1709182895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Seyyed Moazam 'Ali, Bangladeshi ambassador in Tehran, today met First Vice President Hasan Habibi and described the latest political-economic situation in Bangladesh and his country's positions on the issues of Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bangladeshi ambassador referred to the upcoming visit of our country's president to his country and considered the visit as a turning point in enhancing the level of ties between the two countries. He added that: From our viewpoint, Iran was an important country that could play a vital role in establishing peace and security in the region and in economic dealings between western and eastern Asia.

Habibi referred to the long history and neighborly relations between the countries and considered as beneficial the cooperation and coordination between the two economic organizations, ECO and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], and said: If all the markets of the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, and the far east were combined into a vast economic market, we would be able to meet all our requirements for the countries in the region.

The first vice president referred to the existence of some tensions in the region and stated that the countries in the region should resolve the issues through understanding and coordination among their officials and should not allow the presence of the foreign powers in the region.

Nateq-Nuri Denies Division With Rowhaniyat

95LA0375A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in English 6 Sep 95 pp 24, 23

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — In an attempt to ensure his rise to the presidential post, parliamentary speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri last week moved to mend the widening rifts within his faction just six months ahead of the controversial parliamentary elections.

"There is no division within Rowhaniyat. We will safeguard the unity and integrity of the clerics as long as we are alive," Nateq-Nuri told a meeting also attended by Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi Kani last Monday [4 September].

He said it has been the wish of external enemies of the Islamic Revolution and their "domestic followers" to show that the Jame-e-Rowhaniyat-e-Mobarez which in western terms is described as the Rightist Faction were in discord.

He also ruled out the likelihood of a division within the Rowhaniyat faction.

Nateq-Nuri who is a leading member of the Jame-e-Rowhaniyat-e-Mobarez said his faction will have an active powerful presence in the upcoming parliamentary elections in March 1996.

The speaker's remarks have been interpreted in journalistic circles as a serious move to mend the rifts within his faction. Nateq-Nuri clearly sees any differences within his faction detrimental to his political aspirations. He rightly believes that the next president will be from amongst the faction which gains the majority of the votes in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

The Secretary-General of the Jame-e-Rowhaniyat-e-Mobarez Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi Kani announced his resignation in June after months of internal bickering. Kani's resignation was to protest the role of the party-like role of the faction and Nateq-Nuri's attempts to seize the post of presidency. The resignation was interpreted a blow to the coalition of the Rightist Faction.

This is while the Rightist Faction has launched an early election campaign trying to outmaneuver the already marginalized Leftist Faction.

Assadollah Badamchian, Judiciary's representative in the Interior Ministry's Political Parties Commission who is also close to the Rightist Faction recently said the Majma-e-Rowhaniyun-e-Mobarez which in western terms is known as the Leftist Faction said "The Leftist

Faction has no chance in capturing Majlis seats" in the March elections.

Meanwhile, leader of the Islamic Revolution Grand Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has reportedly urged Mahdavi Kani to withdraw his resignation and continue to function as the Secretary-General of the Jame-e-Rowhaniyat-e-Mobarez.

President Inaugurates Work on Power Plant

LD1509100895 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khoy (W. Azarbaijan Prov.), Sept. 15, IRNA — Executive operations of the second geo-thermal power research plant started in Qotur valley near the northwestern city of Khoy, Friday morning on the third day of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit of West Azarbaijan.

Saying that the country is blessed with a good potential for harnessing solar energy, the president called for the necessity of setting up thermal, wind and solar powerplants.

"We are in the research phase in this regard and we should take advantage of experiences and technology available in the world," he added.

"By utilizing the possibilities availabe and by making use of the researches of our scholars and experts, we can turn into an important base for producing energy in the world," the president stated with confidence.

Referring to the strategic border location of the Qotur and the and the high possibilities availabe in the valley, the president issued instructions and sanctioned funds for laying a connecting road from Qotur to the border region.

The unique geo-thermal power plant, located 17 kms in the Qotur valley, is capable of producing 20 megawatts of electricity.

Iran's atomic energy organization has carried out research and feasibility operations of geo-thermal powerplants in Qotur and in the Sabalan region of East Azarbaijan Province.

In order to utilize energy sources lying untapped deep inside the two regions, rls. 10 billion has been alloted, and it is expected that the projects would go on stream within the next two years.

Nepal

Communists Decide Not To Back Vote of Confidence

LD1709144495 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) [CPN-UML] has decided not to give its support in the vote of confidence to the present coalition government which is to be tabled in the House of Representatives tomorrow. A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the CPN-UML parliamentary party under the chairmanship of party Secretary General Madhav Kumar Nepal in Kathmandu today. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Party Secretary General Mr. Nepal said that there was no reason to support the present coalition government, which had been formed out of jealousy at the popular works carried out by the CPN-UML government.

Government Wins Confidence Motion in Parliament

BK1809114295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Sept 18 (AFP)—Nepal's new coalition government won a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives Monday [18 September], allowing it to stay in power, a parliamentary official said.

The government, headed by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress party, received 107 votes in the 205-member house, four more than needed, the official said.

The week-old coalition government replaced the 10-month-old Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist government, which had been voted from power September 10 on a parliamentary censure motion.

The government change followed a decision by the Supreme Court in June to overturn on constitutional grounds a ruling by King Birendra which dissolved parliament. The king had ordered parliament dissolved at the request of then-prime minister Man Mohan Adhikari, who claimed it was inhibiting actions of his government.

The new government has only a five-member cabinet, but Deuba earlier said he would distribute 18 portfolios he was holding himself after the government won the vote of confidence.

Pakistan

Editorial Sees 'New American Game' in Region

BK1809075195 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "New American game in South Asia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a defence department briefing, the American Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near East and South Asian Affairs, Bruce Riedell, stated that in conventional military balance in South Asia, India enjoyed a two-to-one advantage. This information was released to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in order to assure the members that if sanctions on US arms supply to Pakistan are lifted and if a one time waiver to the Pressler law is allowed, it would not change the military balance between India and Pakistan.

While there are people like Hank Brown and a few others in the American Senate who look at the South Asian security problems fairly and with a view to maintain some sort of balance, the American leadership in general takes Pakistan for granted after attaining the power of maneuverability in our political system. On the other hand, India despite its anti-American overtures in the past and even now, is appeased by Uncle Sam. Perhaps, there could be some rationale in the American decision not to sell us our equipment for which we had paid in advance simply because Pressler's Indian fund- raisers pointed out to him that Pakistan was going to manufacture an atomic device; the senators on Capital Hill would also rationalise the fact that whereas Pakistan's equipment is illegally detained on an unsubstantiated pretext India continues to receive the preferential treatment of a responsible partner in defence cooperation. This is irrespective of the fact that after exploding its nuclear device India has been manufacturing nuclear capable missiles. Recently India received LCA [Light Combat Aircraft] GE-404 engines from the Americans for New Delhi's arsenal. We understand the factors (the real factors) that influence such decisions in the American capital.

However, what we do not understand is why the American President, if he means what he says, does not intervene and deliver us our merchandise? Why was it possible when the Americans needed Pakistan during the Soviet presence in Afghanistan? What happened now? Did ethics change or some new global plans do not admit Pakistan as a nation which could defend itself successfully? We would not blame the Americans because right from the 1962 India-China war upto now, they have been sending us clear messages of their priorities and preferences; only we have been resisting lessons of history. An appreciation of the demands of self-respect and diplomacy have been seldom demonstrated in our foreign relations. Any visitor from the United States, comparable in status to that of our deputy secretary, is taken straight to the Presidency or the Prime Minister's House? In our unqualified love for the Yankees, we have forgotten even the diplomatic protocol. What happens to our dignitaries visiting the United States is another story, too well-known to be re-told.

Islamabad needs to know that the Americans are working to give India not just a military edge but predominance in South Asia so that a message of "all is well" in the subcontinent could be given to Beijing and the Americans could do to India what they did to us during the Cold War. Maybe Senator Brown is honestly pursuing his declared objectives but by the time we get those F-16s or our money back, it would be worth much less than what we had paid for. Pakistan should knock at the door of the Justice Department without any delay and demand its money with interest. We should also realise that by being so obedient to Uncle Sam, we are constantly compromising on our sovereignty, self respect and independence.

We must remember that these values are not the goods for exchange to be bartered away; with them, we have a destiny. Without them, we will be overtaken by the fate of those who discard them. In view of India's growing war machine with the American transfer of technology and active co-operation, we cannot sit idle and wait for the Pressler waiver. We need to explore other possibilities. So far as our relations with the United States are concerned, they should be viewed in the same context in which Washington perceives them.

Foreign Secretary Comments on Aid to Afghanistan

BK1809134795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has decided to withdraw certain facilities which it had earlier granted to Kabul regime, including transit trade facilities for its electronic and other machinery; however, Pakistan will continue to provide transit facility for food stuff for the Afghan people. This was announced by the foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh, while briefing the journalists at the Foreign Office today.

Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh said Pakistan is neither supporting the Taleban nor it is interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He said, as a matter of fact, Rabbani regime has adopted a hostile policy toward Pakistan after receiving material assistance from India.

[Begin Sheikh recording] We have provided hospitality to all Afghan leaders, to all people of influence in Afghanistan, in our effort to help them to try and find a solution. But now, obviously, we shall have to be selectively withdrawing the facilities that have hitherto been extended, particularly to that faction which is seeking to create an atmosphere of animosity between Pakistan and one particular faction in Afghanistan. [end recording]

Relations With Kabul, Reopening Embassy Discussed

BK1509143195 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 15 Sep 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Kabul Government's New Mischievous Allegation Against Pakistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has declared that unless and until Kabul's Rabbani government offers an unconditional apology for the tragic attack on the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul last week and pays compensation for the loss of lives and property, the question of reopening our embassy there will not arise.

Meanwhile, Kabul Radio, quoting Afghan Government sources, has broadcast a provocative and baseless report that Pakistan is preparing for an attack on Afghanistan with the help of the Taleban. A statement by a spokesman of the Kabul government's Ministry of Defense has alleged that 400 Pakistani mercenaries have gathered at Meydan Shahr, 34 km from Kabul, and they might, together with Taleban, attack Kabul at any time. The Afghan Government distributed this statement to a large number of foreign media representatives, so that it could be given maximum publicity in the West. Afghan Security Minister Yunes Qanuni has also reiterated the above allegations against Pakistan. A BBC correspondent has reported from Kabul that most of the speakers at a meeting of government circles made scathing remarks against Pakistan and reiterated the allegation that Pakistan has attacked Afghanistan under the cover of the Taleban. According to certain neutral sources, a massive artillery duel is continuing between the Taleban and Rabbani government forces in Lowgar Province, and the fighting between them is escalating each day.

The Rabbani government's attitude toward Pakistan has been extremely antagonistic in the past few months. According to reliable sources, the Kabul government is trying to expand and create more warmth in its relations with India and Russia. The Pakistani foreign minister had also charged recently that the Rabbani government has been waging a vilification campaign against Islamabad at the behest of Pakistan's enemies. The Government of Pakistan has demonstrated a sense of patience and restraint after the attack on its embassy in Kabul and has done everything possible to keep the situation from being aggravated. Furthermore, Pakistan has also not decided in principle to close down its embassy in Kabul. Considering the nature of the attack on the embassy, it would have been a justifiable and understandable step, even if Islamabad had decided to sever diplomatic ties with Afghanistan. Hardly any tragedy of this nature has ever occurred in the history of diplomatic relations, in which the ambassador, military attache, and very senior officials of any country were beaten and injured so badly that they were at the point of death. Such treatment was meted out to Pakistan's embassy, in a country for which Islamabad made every possible sacrifice for over a decade to save it from foreign aggression and for which it invited dangers to its own existence but refused to deviate from its principled stand.

It is extremely regrettable that the Rabbani government did not respect at all its historical, religious, political, and fraternal relations with Pakistan and has been maintaining an antagonistic and adversarial attitude toward it, overlooking all of the requirements of a bilateral relationship. As we stated earlier, the Government of Pakistan has displayed a sense of patience and restraint vis-a-vis the Rabbani government's attitude. However, in the wake of the fresh accusations made by the Kabul government spokesmen—that Pakistan is preparing to attack Afghanistan under the cover of the Taleban—Islamabad should intensify its diplomatic efforts and inform the world of the facts. The possibility that a country that can silently watch a ghastly attack on a friendly country's embassy and refuse to offer its apology for the mishap will indulge in further misadventures or wrong actions cannot be ruled out. The people of Pakistan hope that the government will do everything possible to protect the image and interests of Pakistan and will not provide an opportunity to the Kabul rulers to take undue advantage of Pakistan's magnanimity and tolerance.

The circles that are inciting the Kabul government and causing deterioration in Pakistan-Afghan relations will not end their mischief and will always look for an opportunity to cause irreparable harm to the relationship between two fraternal Islamic countries. The Government of Pakistan should also establish contacts with other centers of power and important personalities inside Afghanistan and fully inform them of the implications of the Rabbani government's regrettable attitude. Similarly, the Kabul government should be pressured through the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] to change its attitude. OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid has already condemned the attack on the Pakistani Embassy in Afghanistan. It would be good if an OIC delegation were to hold negotiations with the Kabul government and persuade it to adopt the right attitude.

We hope that the Government of Pakistan will further intensify its diplomatic activities in the wake of increasing accusations by the Kabul government and will ensure that Pakistan's interests are not harmed in any way. The UN Security Council [UNSC] has expressed concern over the attack on the Pakistani Embassy, which should be welcomed. The UNSC's expression of concern indicates that neutral countries understand that the Kabul government is at fault.

OIC Chief Gives Support to Islamabad on Kashmir

BK1909061895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], has again assured Pakistan of full support for an early resolution of the Kashmir dispute according to UN resolutions.

During a meeting with Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, he also offered help in drawing world attention to the atrocities being committed by the Indian occupation forces in occupied Kashmir. Nasrullah Khan thanked Dr. Hamid Algabid for his sympathies with the Kashmiri people and for the efforts of the OIC Secretariat in passing a unanimous resolution upholding the right of self-determination for the Kashmiris at the Casablanca OIC summit. He informed him about the continued brutalities in the held valley and the Indian Government's attempt to install a nonrepresentative government through farcical elections. He added that the continued enforcement of presidential rule in occupied Kashmir for the last five years is ample proof of hatred toward India in occupied Kashmir.

Airline Says it 'Never Negotiated' With Israel

BK1809082495 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Sep 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI: PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] has never negotiated or placed an order on any agency working in or operating out of Israel, says a press release.

Commenting on a rejoinder in the daily The News to PIA clarification issued on 15 September 1995, a PIA spokesman Sunday [17 September] said that sometime back the Airline has placed an order in Seattle with Boeing Aircraft Company of USA for supply of the fire detection and protection kit for its Boeing 747 Combi Aircraft. This is a mandatory requirement under the FAA Airworthiness directive. However, on receipt of consignment at Karachi on 29-8-1995 and the scrutiny of shipment documents, PIA staff vigilantly observed that the shipment was sent from Tel Aviv (Israel) and was carried by Air France to Karachi. PIA refused to accept the consignment from Air France Cargo and immediately took up the matter with Boeing Company.

The Boeing Company has regretted the incident and agreed for the return of the consignment to their facility. They have further explained that this is mix-up number information. It may be pointed out that PIA's action had taken place long before the appearance of report in the newspaper.

It is also strongly denied that PIA Managing Director or any other official ever held any discussion with any government official at any stage on the above matter. The relevant documents have been attached with the press release.

Party Faction Offers To Merge With Rival

BK1609111695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Pakistan Muslim League [PML] (N) [Nawaz], Punjab, has recommended to its central leadership for the merger of two factions of the League. The provincial League unconditionally offered reunification to the PML (J) [Junejo] and held that if the latter sets conditions for this exercise, it would like to proceed with them in the larger interest of the nation and the country. A committee would soon be established in this connection to hammer out a purposeful merger of the two groups. This was decided at a high-level meeting of the Punjab PML (N) held at the residence of Provincial Chief Organiser, Senator Ch [Chaudhary] Shujaat Hussain here on Friday. The meeting was attended by PML Senior Vice-President Mian Muhammad Azhar, Arshad Khan Lodhi, Sardar Zulfiqar Ahmad Khosa, Mian Abdul Satter, Khawaja Sa'ad Rafique, Khwaja Riaz Mehmood and Ramzan Bahtti. The meeting also discussed the letter received from PML(J) Chief Hamid Nasir Chattha and the Punjab situation.

Later, talking to newsmen Ch Shujaat Hussain said that after receipt of the letter from Hamid Nasir Chattha we have initiated efforts in this respect for making headway towards the reunification of the two groups. He said in the present situation they do not want that their ego should interpose into their sincere efforts for unity. He said the same spirit prevailed on their part at the time of accepting Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo in the party despite the fact that during the last two and a half years their Assembly Members and the supporters were subjected to extreme suppression and implicated in false cases.

He said during Tehrik-e-Nijaat many of their supporters including two from Nazriya Pakistan Trust namely, Turrabi and Abdul Hamid were killed. Ch Shujaat said on October 11 last the PML(N) workers were ruthlessly beaten and killed in Gujranwala and GuJrat while PML (N) Secretary Information was put in jail for nine months.

The PML Punjab Chief Organiser further said that through Anti- Corruption Department the members of the Union and District Councils supporting their party were arrested but, he added, forgetting all that they were offering reunification to the PML(J) in the larger interest of the nation and hoped that efforts in this regard should be made with sincere heart and good intention.

Describing the situation in Punjab as alarming, Ch Shujaat Hussain said the Federal Government has given a red alert to its party and with the help of 'new horses' it has decided to again 'invade' Punjab next month. He said next time the Government will again adopt the tactics of horse-trading and blackmailing, besides this he said the Government has ordered the State Bank to print more currency note. Ch Shujaat said under such circumstances the PML(N) would side with only those who prefer the interests of the province.

Ch Shujaat Hussain remarked that at present they were looking at the new Chief Minister as to what strategy he would adopt under the circumstances.

The recommendations made by the PML(N) Punjab for the merger of the two groups have been conveyed to the party chief, Mian Nawaz Sharif.

Parties Agree To Resist 'Fascist' Policies

BK1709110395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Sep 95 p 1,11

[Report by Shahzada Zulfiqar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] QUETTA—The fifteen political parties including the Opposition parties of the country have decided in the national conference to constitute a coordination committee for seeking the cooperation and support of all political parties to resist "the fascist policies and state terrorism" being unleasned by the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government in various parts of the country.

The decision was made unanimously by the fifteen political parties in the national conference called by the Jamhoori Watan Party [JWP] here at a local hotel. The leaders attended the conference included Nawaz Sharif, Opposition Leader, Khurshid Mahmood Kasturi, Mushahid Hussain, Tehrik Istaqlal's Air Marshal (Retd), Asghar Khan, Ajmal Khan Khattak of ANP [Awami National Party], Sheikh Liaquat of MQM(A) [Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf], Prince Mohiuddin of Baloch Rabita Ittehad, Nawab Khair Bakhsh Marri of Baloch Haq Tawar, Malik Abdul Ali Kakar of PNP [Pakistan National Party] (Lahri), Allama Iftikhar Hussain of Tehrik Fiqahe Jafferia, Maulana Adbul Haq of Jama'at-i-Islami, Senator Akram Shah of PMAP [Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party], Rao Rashid of PPP (SB) and Arshad Chaudhry of PDP [Pakistan Democratic Party].

It may be mentioned that no Balochistan nationalist party like both, groups of Balochistan National Movement either of Sardar Akhtar Mangal and of Senator Dr Hai Baloch and Pakistan National Party did not participated in the conference. Both groups of BNM have an alliance with PPP and it is believed that they stayed away from the conference because they did not want to annoy the government. While PNP did not bother to attend the conference as their some leaders were of the view that JWP was exploiting a regional issue for the political purposes.

While briefing newsmen conclusion of the conference, Khurshid Kasuri of PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League—Nawaz] said the committee constituted with Ajmal Khan Khattak, ANP [Awami National Party] Chief as convenor. The names of the members would be released later, he added. He said it was formed to seek the cooperation and support of the other parties for devising the ways and means to achieve the objectives of the joint declaration, adopted in the conference.

To a question, he said the constitution of the said committee was aimed at mobilising the public opinion to resist the fascist policies of the government with the cooperation of political parties in and outside the parliament.

Earlier, in the joint statement which called the "Quetta Declaration" the participants of the conference vehemently condemned the state terrorism being unleashed in different parts of the country particularly in Karachi and the cruel policies of the government to bully the citizens of Sui-Dera Bugti.

The meeting also proposed the formation of a high-powered judicial commission with the consent of both the government and the Opposition parties.

It is said that the commission was proposed in view of the menace of corruption, which eats into the vitals of the nation and destroyed all state institution. It said that the total absence of accountability encouraged the spread of this cancer at an alarming pace.

The meeting has also decided to resist the government's fascist policies and nefarious designs in the parliament and through mobilisation of the people.

It is said that the participants of the conference would maintain close contact with the people and the Press regarding the human rights violation in any part of the country whether it be in Karachi, Lahore, Sui-Dera Bugti Bara, Malakand or Dir.

The meeting also expressed its concern over the country's present serious economic, political and social crises and viewed the price- hike had affected the common man severely.

The horse-trading witnessed in Punjab and NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] in the absence of accountability aggravated the crises in the country, it said. The failure in the foreign policy isolated Pakistan in the comity of the nation even among the friends, making it weaker and vulnerable to all kinds of pressure, the declaration concluded.

Sri Lanka

President Discusses Possibility of Conscription

BK1809124195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] If the war is prolonged, the government may introduce compulsory military service for youth over 18 years of age in order to assist in the military effort, President Chandrika Kumaratunga said in an interview last week. A three-year military service period would be required, she said. President Kumaratunga has said that if no political solution to the northeast conflict would be found immediately, the war would have to continue further, and for that the military capability of the government has to be further strengthened. Therefore, the government was contemplating to provide compulsory military training to all youth over 18 years with a view to enlisting them for a service for at least three years, she said.

She said that some members of the Mahasangha [Buddhist clergy], as well as some academics and professors, were not prepared to accept the devolution package, even with the amendments. They insist that the issue should be settled militarily alone. The majority of these who maintain that the war should continue have sent their children abroad for higher education. As such, those who are at the war front are the children of the innocent and poor people of villages. This is wrong and unfair. Therefore, all youth in the country should be given compulsory military training and be enlisted for service.

Tamil Tigers Kill 16 Soldiers, Kidnap 10 Farmers

BK1609100595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Sept 16 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas ambushed an army patrol, killing 16 soldiers and abducted 10 Sinhala farmers in eastern Sri Lanka, military officials here said Saturday [16 September].

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked an armoured vehicle of the army at Pulkunawa in the Ampara district Friday, killing the 16 soldiers, officials said.

They said the LTTE had taken away the bodies of nine soldiers. The LTTE's clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers said the group lost one fighter in the confrontation.

In the same region, the LTTE abducted 10 farmers from the majority Sinhala community. The fate of the captives was not immediately known. The Tigers are opposed to Sinhalese living in the area.

Meanwhile, police detected an attempt by the guerrillas to sabotage a railway track in the eastern Batticaloa region, the military said in a statement.

Some 35 sleepers were removed from the railway track, the statement said.

The rebel radio reported two civilian deaths in the Jaffna peninsula in northern Sri Lanka where security forces continued a limited offensive against the militants.

Tamil rebels are leading a protracted campaign for an independent homeland for the two million Tamil minority concentrated in northern and eastern regions of the island.

More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting since the armed uprising began in 1972.

Troops Continue Operation Against 'Terrorists'

BK1609124495 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry announced this morning that the troops are continuing their operations in Alaveddi, (Malahan), (Erlai), (Panalai Kattuan), and (Rassi Belan)—that is, areas in Jaffna. They confronted terrorists and effectively repulsed their attacks, forcing the terrorists to withdraw. During the confrontation, two soldiers suffered injuries and were evacuated to the Palali Base hospital. At Pottuvil in the Amparai District, 10 Sinhala farmers who had gone to the jungle for [word indistinct] cultivation were abducted by terrorists last Thursday [14 September]. One farmer was released with 1,000 rupees in cash to buy provisions for the terrorists, but he reported the incident to the police.

At Batticaloa yesterday, troops in a clearing patrol between Sittandi and Kiran found that terrorists had damaged about 35 sleepers of the railway track.

The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has opened its own bank in Jaffna to show the international community that the entire administration in the peninsula is controlled by them. The commander of the Sea Tigers, (Susai), inaugurated this bank at (Nelliatti) in Valvedditturai, recently. The LTTE has requested the residents of Jaffna to open accounts with the new bank. The LTTE had earlier opened two banks in the Jaffna Peninsula, but it proved to be a failure as there were no patronage by the Jaffna residents.

LTTE Role in Plane Crash Seen as Unlikely

BK1709135995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports from Jaffna say that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has not claimed responsibility for the crash of the Air Force transport plane last Wednesday [13 September]. The LTTE radio reported the incident on Thursday—that is, one day after the crash—while a report was also carried out in the (EELANADAN) newspaper, a mouthpiece of the LTTE. The leader of a main political party in the north familiar with the workings of the LTTE told SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that the LTTE would have issued a statement by now if, in fact, they were responsible for the crash. This assumption is further strengthened by the fact that the LTTE had claimed responsibility within hours when an airplane crashed on an earlier occasion.

Meanwhile, the operational director of the Air Force, Air Commodore Jayalath Weerakkody, told a news conference in Colombo yesterday that a detailed investigation into the crash of the twin- engined transport plane last Wednesday is now under way. However, at this stage they were unable to reach any conclusion with regard to the crash. He added that it was generally believed that bad weather was the cause of the accident.

Meanwhile, a senior Navy official told the SLBC that the search at the crash site continued for the third day yesterday. He added that they were unable to make any important find.

Sources Report Failed Talks To Free Ferry Crew

BK1509123595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to sources from the north, the ferry Iris Moana, hijacked by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], is still seen in the seas off Mullaittivu. It has been reported that discussions conducted to obtain the release of eight members of crew of the ship and two civilians have failed to achieve the expected result. This was confirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

One hundred and thirty-three civilians who were on board on the ship hijacked on the 28th of last month have already been released. Ninety-three persons are still in Jaffna with the intention of going back to their homes in surrounding islands of Jaffna. Forty people have already returned to their hometown. Ten persons detained by the LTTE were taken to the LTTE camp.

Trade Unions Welcome Proposals To End Conflicts

BK1709141695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Twenty-two trade unions have described the proposals of the PA [People's Alliance] government on the resolution of the ethnic crisis as a courageous and honest effort. A statement issued by these trade unions note that the government's proposals and its peace efforts have won international acclaim. The government's proposals include a framework for regional self-administration dispensing justice to the minorities. The leaders of the 22 trade unions have appealed to the working people to consider these proposals with wisdom, in the context of national and international realities without being swayed by communalism, and to extend their support for a resolution of the crisis.

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